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SPREADING DISASTER

Florence moving quickly northeast, bringing torrential rain, possible new flooding **Page 6**

INSIDE: Thousands of troops aiding in search and rescue in Carolinas as flooding worsens
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Willie Schubert and his dog, Lucky, await rescue in Pollocksville, N.C., on Monday.

STEVE HELBER/AP



NATO base in Kabul is building more amid open-ended US commitment

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

Nearly 17 years after the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan, the international coalition in Kabul is putting down new roots with hardened permanent structures to replace temporary ones at its headquarters in the increasingly violent capital.

A contract to build a massive, concrete

command and control center on the compound is currently out to bid, officials there said last week.

Some base personnel in June said construction of the planned three-story, 120,000-square-foot concrete building would require hundreds of people living and working in temporary structures at the headquarters to relocate to other nearby bases.

The complex is expected to have more

than 800 workspaces, according to a NATO procurement document. Contracting rules bar release of further details during the bidding and design phase, officials said.

The plans follow completion earlier this summer of a permanent passenger terminal and a control tower at the compound's helicopter landing zone, which until a few years ago was still a soccer field. An uptick in air traffic at the Resolute Support

headquarters, the result of decreasing security in the capital, drove the effort.

"This project was accomplished rapidly ... due to the significant increase of helicopter flights at RS HQ, which made the previous provisional arrangements untenable," the NATO Support and Procurement Agency said in a July statement about the tower and terminal.

SEE BASE ON PAGE 5

MILITARY

Bill: Give full Arlington honors to enlisted MOH recipients, POWs

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

A House bill seeks to afford enlisted Medal of Honor recipients and former prisoners of war the right to be buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

Those honors, which include an escort and a horse-drawn caisson, are currently reserved only for officers and servicemembers killed in action.

The Full Military Honors Act of 2018 was introduced to the House Armed Services Committee on Sept. 7 by Reps. Mike Bishop, R-Mich.; Sam Johnson, R-Texas; and Tim Walz, D-Minn. The congressmen are working to bring the legislation before the full chamber this fall.

"Medal of Honor recipients and POWs have earned and deserve nothing less than full military honors," Walz said in a statement. "As a retired enlisted soldier of 24 years, I'm proud to join in introducing the Full Military Honors Act. To help ensure we honor the sacrifices these heroes and their families have made for our country, we must pass it without delay."

Staffers in Bishop's office said they learned of the issue earlier this year after the family of Robert Fletcher — a former Korean War POW — spoke out against the policy. Fletcher, a Buffalo Soldier and Michigan native, died Feb. 12 and was interred at Arlington on June 4.

"America's POWs and Medal of Honor recipients have sacri-

ficed immeasurably in service to the United States — regardless of their rank ..." Bishop said in the statement. "This has been an issue for too long, and my legislation will ensure those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty are provided the full military honors they have earned for their end of life ceremonies."

The issue resonated with Johnson, an Air Force veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars who was shot down over North Vietnam in 1966 and was held captive for nearly seven years.

"During my time in the infamous Hanoi Hilton, many of my fellow POWs and I were isolated in cramped cells. We spent months in leg irons, were in leg stocks, and endured extreme starvation and torture," he said in the statement.

"My fellow POWs who served honorably demonstrated the utmost patriotism, but not all of them were eligible for full military honors at their burial, simply due to their rank. I believe this is wrong. ANY veteran who served honorably as a Prisoner of War or whose actions earned them the Medal of Honor has already demonstrated extraordinary dedication to defending Freedom. In return, they deserve to have the country they fought for bestow full military honors if they are eligible to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery."

The bill has been endorsed by the American Legion, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Military Officers Association of America, the National League of

POW/ MIA Families, the Special Operations Association, the Special Forces Association and the American Fallen Warriors Memorial Foundation, the statement said.

Fletcher's daughter, Kanda, said she cried when she heard the news.

"I know my dad is just grinning from ear to ear," she wrote in an email this week. "We cannot change my father's burial, but if I can make it easier for any still living former POWs and their families when their time comes, I will do whatever it takes. There should be no shame in having served our country, nor should a family have to be angry, disappointed, embarrassed, or whatever because their former POW was enlisted and will not receive burial with full honors."

Burial eligibility for former POWs and Medal of Honor recipients is established by the Code of Federal Regulations, Arlington officials said. Any former POW who served honorably and died on or after Nov. 30, 1993, can be buried in-ground there. It also allows burial for recipients of the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Air Force Cross, the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star or the Purple Heart.

A Defense Department instruction titled "Military Funeral Support" sets a standardized baseline of services, including a two-person uniformed detail, the playing of taps, the folding of the flag and its presentation to the family of the deceased, Arlington



ELIZABETH FRASER/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

The 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment Caisson Platoon, known as "The Old Guard," escorts a former Army colonel to his final resting place at Arlington National Cemetery on April 2.

officials said.

On top of the department's standardized guidelines, the veteran's service branch also has discretion over which, if any, additional honors are bestowed.

Arlington follows an Army regulation titled "Salutes, Honors and Visits of Courtesy" as administrator over the cemetery, officials said. Per Army regulations, the minimum for enlisted servicemembers eligible for in-ground burial is to provide a casket team, a firing party, the playing of taps by a bugler and a chaplain. That is what Fletcher received.

Commissioned officers, warrant officers and senior noncommissioned officers (pay grade E-9) who are eligible for burial at Arlington are eligible for "full honors," which includes an additional escort, a marching element, a band and the horse-drawn

caisson.

Arlington officials said earlier this year they can barely keep up with the current demand for full-honors burials. There are only eight horse-drawn caisson slots per day, and the cemetery performs up to 30 burials, officials said. There is a minimum of a four-month wait to receive standard honors at Arlington and a seven- to nine-month wait for full honors and caisson.

There were 5,071 former POWs living in the U.S. as of August 2017, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. However, that number includes only those in the VA system. There are 72 living Medal of Honor recipients, according to the Congressional Medal of Honor Association.

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MILITARY

Abrams nominated to become USFK commander

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Gen. Robert Abrams, the head of Army Forces Command, has been nominated to be the next commander of U.S. Forces Korea, according to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

If confirmed, Abrams would replace Gen. Vincent Brooks to lead about 28,500 American troops based in South Korea as Seoul and Washington are engaged in diplomatic efforts to persuade the North to give up its nuclear weapons.

The four-star general, also known by his nickname, Abe, was listed as the nominee to be the commander of USFK as well as the United Nations Command and the Combined Forces Command on the Senate Armed Services Committee website. It said he will face a confirmation hearing on Sept. 25.

USFK's public affairs office said Monday that it was aware of the nomination but would have no comment on Abrams' or Brooks' plans pending the confirmation hearing.

Brooks has presided over U.S. military efforts in South Korea since April 2016, a period that has seen tensions with the North that raised fears of a nuclear war before ebbing after the North agreed earlier this year to engage in diplomacy.

Abrams currently leads FORSCOM, which is based at Fort Bragg, N.C., and is the largest organization in the Army,

with more than 750,000 active-duty and reserve component soldiers. He assumed that command in August 2015 and previously served as the senior military assistant to the defense secretary.

He also played a key role in the court-martial of Pvt. Bowe Bergdahl, the former Taliban captive who pleaded guilty to desertion and misbehavior charges last year.

Abrams, the convening authority in the high-profile proceedings, approved the judge's decision to spare Bergdahl prison time but to sentence him to forfeit \$10,000 in pay, a drop in rank and a dishonorable discharge.

His official biography says he earned his commission from the U.S. Military Academy in 1982 and has led units in combat operations in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Born in Germany, Abrams was the third member of his immediate family to earn four stars.

His father was Gen. Creighton W. Abrams Jr., who served as Army chief of staff from October 1972 until his death in September 1974. The M1 Abrams tank was named after him.

His brother, retired Gen. John N. Abrams, the former commander of Army Training and Doctrine Command, died last month. His other brother is retired Brig. Gen. Creighton W. Abrams Jr.

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Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Gen. Robert Abrams, the head of Army Forces Command, has reportedly been nominated to replace Gen. Vincent Brooks as the commander of U.S. Forces Korea.

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MILITARY

Ukraine plans new naval base; US mulls more weapons sales

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

Ukraine announced plans to establish a naval base along the Sea of Azov, a move that came a day after the U.S. said it is mulling more military assistance for Kiev to counter Russia's actions.

"This (base) will create conditions for rebuffing the aggressive actions of the Russian Federation in this region," the Ukrainian government said in a statement Sunday.

U.S. military officials have been watching as tensions have increased in the Sea of Azov and the strategic Kerch Strait, which connects Ukrainian port cities to the Black Sea and from there to the Mediterranean.

Since April, Russia has delayed the transit of hundreds of commercial ships attempting to sail through the Kerch Strait. Some security analysts have described Russia's actions as a de facto blockade.

Kurt Volker, the U.S. special envoy, said in Kiev on Saturday that the Trump administration was open to giving the country more lethal weaponry to address capability gaps. Earlier this year, the U.S. provided Ukraine with 100 anti-tank Javelin missiles to support government forces fighting Russian separatists in Ukraine's east.

"And wherever those gaps are, we are prepared to sit down and talk with Ukraine about what their needs are. They can buy things through our foreign military sales," Volker told reporters.

Volker also told Radio Free Europe that Ukraine's short supply

of naval and air defense assets was worrying because it means the Russians "feel they can assert dominance there (in the Sea of Azov)."

"I think that's going to be the focus as we develop the next steps in our defense cooperation," he said.

U.S. officials have denounced Russia's stepped-up maritime patrols.

"Russia's actions to impede maritime transit are further examples of its ongoing campaign to undermine and destabilize Ukraine, as well as its disregard for international norms," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said in August.

Moscow has been building up its Black Sea fleet and ground forces since its 2014 seizure of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, where Russia has deployed sophisticated air defense systems.

In May, Russia opened a new bridge that connects Crimea to the Russian mainland. The building of the bridge, which spans the Kerch Strait, without Ukraine's approval has been condemned by the West and Ukraine as illegal.

"Russia's activity in the Sea of Azov and in the Strait of Kerch seem to be to confirm Moscow's ambitions to make this basin a fully Russian-controlled internal area," Krzysztof Nieczyzko, a Ukraine analyst with the Centre for Eastern Studies, wrote in August. "Access to the Sea of Azov and control of the ships sailing through the Strait of Kerch enables Russia to exert economic black-mail on Ukraine."

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NATO chief: No plans to name new HQ after McCain

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

NATO is unlikely to name its new headquarters building after the late Sen. John McCain, the alliance's top official said, citing a lack of precedent.

"NATO doesn't have a tradition of naming buildings after politicians," NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said Friday during a visit to Washington. "You know, we are 29 allies with a lot of presidents, kings, heads of state and government, so we haven't introduced that tradition."

After McCain's Aug. 25 death from brain cancer, there were tributes from across the political spectrum in the U.S. and in Europe, where there was a push to name NATO's \$1.4 billion Brussels headquarters after the senator.

The effort began when British parliamentarian Tom Tugendhat called on NATO to recognize McCain's advocacy for the trans-Atlantic alliance. Then three for-

mer NATO secretaries-general — Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Javier Solana and George Robertson — followed with similar calls.

"I'm certain that we will be able to honor John McCain, but not necessarily through naming a building," Stoltenberg said. "And actually, we honor John McCain every day through the fact that we stand together in NATO and deliver a strong trans-Atlantic deterrence and defense."

Pushing to rename NATO's headquarters after McCain could have made for an awkward situation for Stoltenberg, who likely would have needed the backing of President Donald Trump if all allies were to agree on a name for the headquarters.

Trump, a critic of both McCain and NATO, has questioned the value of the alliance and has made threats to withdraw the U.S. from the body.

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BORIS GEDANOSKI/AP

U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis, left foreground, and Macedonian Prime Minister Zoran Zaev walk past an honor guard squad at the government building in Skopje, Macedonia, on Monday.

Mattis rips Russian push for more influence in Macedonia

By LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

SKOPIE, Macedonia — Defense Secretary Jim Mattis on Monday condemned Russia's efforts to use its money and influence to build opposition to an upcoming vote that could pave the way for Macedonia to join NATO, a move Moscow opposes.

Mattis told reporters traveling with him to Skopje that there is "no doubt" that Moscow has been funding pro-Russian groups to defeat the referendum on a name change later this month.

"They have transferred money, and they're also conducting broader influence campaigns," Mattis said. "We ought to leave the Macedonian people to make up their own minds."

Macedonians will vote Sept. 30 on whether to approve the name North Macedonia in an effort to placate Greece, which for years has blocked Macedonia's path to NATO and the European Union. But any progress toward NATO membership by the Balkan nation is strongly opposed by Russia, which doesn't want the alliance to expand to areas formerly under Moscow's influence.

Mattis, speaking after a meeting with Prime Minister Zoran Zaev, made no mention of Russia but announced that the U.S. plans to expand its cybersecurity cooperation with Macedonia "to thwart malicious cyberactivity that threatens our democracies."

Zaev predicted that Macedonians will vote in favor of the name change and thus the move into NATO.

"There is no other alternative for the Republic of Macedonia than the integration into NATO and the EU," he said.

Macedonia's main conservative opposition VMRO-DPMNE party repeated its position that

"the agreement with Greece is the worst deal signed in the Macedonia's history."

A small, pro-Russia opposition party, Unique Macedonia, strongly criticized Mattis' remarks on Moscow's efforts to use money to influence the opposition to defeat the referendum.

Mattis is the latest in a string of international leaders visiting Macedonia to voice support for the referendum, and he's the most senior U.S. official to visit. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, German chancellor Angela Merkel and Austrian chancellor Sebastian Kurz have visited and have made public endorsements of the name change, saying it's critical in order for the country to join NATO after years of waiting.

Mattis said he and other NATO allies "say right up front in open press what we think."

"We're not passing money to people behind the scenes," he said. "We're not putting together parties that we control or try to control."

Russia already has been called out for trying to influence the vote. In July, Greece expelled two Russian diplomats accused of supplying funds to protest groups opposing the name change deal. Russia denounced the expulsions as unjustified.

For years, Greece, a member of NATO, has vetoed attempts by Macedonia to join NATO, complaining about the country's name since Yugoslavia broke up in the early 1990s. Greece argues the name implies a territorial claim against the northern Greek region of Macedonia and its ancient heritage.

NATO leaders in July formally invited Macedonia to begin membership talks on the condition it wouldn't become effective until the name change was implemented.

But there's widespread concern about Russian impact on the vote.

"There is this influence campaign to try to buy off people and try to support pro-Russian organizations," said Laura Cooper, the U.S. deputy assistant defense secretary for Russia and the region.

She said she couldn't give specifics about the payouts but said the U.S. is aware of financial support Moscow has given to pro-Russian people and groups working to undermine the referendum.

Evelyn Farkas, an expert on the region who is a fellow with the Atlantic Council and a former Defense Department adviser, said Mattis' visit to the tiny nation could help sow support for the name change.

"I think Mattis could make or break this thing by delivering a strong message to the opposition, which has been grudgingly quiet, that they need to come out in full-throated support, because they're not going to get another chance later," Farkas said. "He can tell them this is their last chance."

According to Cooper, the U.S. has given Macedonia about \$5 million in security assistance annually since 1991, and the total U.S. aid since then has been about \$750 million.

Mattis also met with Macedonian President Gorge Ivanov and Defense Minister Radmila Sekerinska. He said that he believes the Macedonian peoples' lives can be changed with added economic opportunities and security and that it's important to have those options available.

The referendum vote is non-binding, and polls indicate Macedonians likely will back the deal. Even if the turnout is below the required 50 percent, if most of the people vote "yes," it will give parliament and the government a mandate to proceed.

WAR ON TERRORISM

Taliban attacks kill 27 Afghan security forces

By RAHIM FAIEZ
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban launched multiple attacks on Afghan checkpoints as well as police and military bases in different parts of the country, killing at least 27 members of the security forces, Afghan officials said Monday.

The attacks and the high casualty toll underscore the difficulties Afghan forces face in trying to secure the country on their own. The Afghan forces have struggled to combat both the Taliban and an Islamic State affiliate since the U.S. and NATO formally ended their combat mission in the country in 2014.

In western Farah province, attacks began Sunday night and killed at least 17 members of the security forces, Farid Bakhtawar, head of the provincial council, said the Taliban attacked police checkpoints across the province and around the provincial capital.

A group of Taliban fighters first targeted checkpoints in the district of Puli Khumud, where 10 policemen died. Another attack struck in Bala Buluk district, where seven were killed and at least three others were abducted by the insurgents. Separately, also in Bala Buluk, six policemen

joined to the Taliban after an intense battle.

There also were attacks elsewhere in Farah, but Bakhtawar couldn't provide any casualty figures, pending more detailed reports.

In northwestern Badghis province, five officers were killed, including Abdul Hakim, the police commander of a reserve unit, in an attack that took place Monday morning near the provincial capital of Qala-i-Now.

Jamshid Shahabi, spokesman for the Badghis governor, said about 22 Taliban fighters were killed and 16 others were wounded during the gunbattle there.

In northern Baghlan province, the Taliban on Monday attacked a joint army and police base, killing three army officers and two police officers, said Gen. Ekramuddin Serhi, the provincial police chief. Four other members of the security forces were wounded in the attack, which took place in the Baghlani Markazi district, he said.

"The base is under the control of the Afghan security forces now, and reinforcements have also been sent to the district," he said. The police chief added that at least 20 Taliban were killed or wounded in the fighting.

Base: Upgrades come as mission has expanded again

FROM FRONT PAGE

Helicopter missions to and from NATO's downtown headquarters have become common in recent years as bombings and ambushes have made road travel dangerous for coalition troops and officials, the Defense Department's lead inspector general for its Afghanistan mission said in a May report.

Civilian personnel at the U.S. Embassy, which adjoins the NATO compound, are forbidden to travel the short distance to Kabul International Airport by road, John F. Sopko, special inspector general for Afghanistan reconstruction, said earlier this year.

The increased reliance on air travel comes with a cost. Flight fees for each 3-mile trip to the airport were estimated to increase from \$1,350 to \$2,250, Sopko said.

Upgrades to the landing zone costing about \$760,000 and funded by NATO members were completed in July, Resolute Support officials said.

Officials formally opened the new passenger terminal in June. The two-story, yellow stucco building features indoor seating; the previous terminal consisted of a covered outdoor waiting area next to a shipping container that housed a small administrative office.

The new air control tower, completed in July, gives air controllers a 360-degree view of the

landing zone and the surrounding airspace, improving air traffic safety, NATO said. New communication and video surveillance equipment allows controllers to monitor three landing zones under their control.

In a statement outlining the tower and passenger terminal project's completion, the alliance's procurement agency said its role in Afghanistan is increasing and it has "many projects underway."

The base upgrades come as the mission in Afghanistan has expanded again in recent years after drawdowns under the Obama administration.

The U.S. has been lobbying its partners for increased contributions as the Trump administration has committed to an open-ended presence in the country and increased troop numbers. The United Kingdom has recently begun deploying additional troops to the country.

Currently, some 14,000 U.S. troops and nearly 8,000 other foreign troops are working to build up the government's security forces and to beat back Taliban insurgents and terrorist groups. Hundreds of Pentagon civilians also support the mission there, along with about 26,000 Defense Department contractors — some 10,000 of them American citizens.

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LOUR CAN, DHA/AP

Fighters with the Free Syrian Army eat in a cave where they live in the outskirts of the northern town of Jisr al-Shughur, Syria, west of the city of Idlib, on Sept. 9.

Last stand: Syria's rebel Idlib girds for losing battle

By SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

BEIRUT — They dug trenches around towns, reinforced caves for cover and put sandbags around their positions. They issued calls to arms, urging young men to join in the defense of Idlib, the Syrian province where opposition fighters expect to make their last stand against Russia- and Iran-backed government troops they have fought for years.

This time, it's "surrender or die."

As the decisive stand for their last stronghold looms, this motley crew of tens of thousands of opposition fighters, including some of the world's most radical groups, is looking for ways to salvage whatever is possible of an armed rebellion that at one point in the seven-year conflict controlled more than half of the country.

In its last chapter, just as it has throughout the long, bloody war, the Syrian rebellion's fate lies in foreign hands. This time, the splintered and diverse rebels have only Turkey.

"The whole world gave up on us, but Turkey will not," said Capt. Najib al-Mustafa, spokesman for the Turkish-backed umbrella group known as the National Front for Liberation.

Idlib, with its 3 million residents and more than 60,000 fighters, is Turkey's cross to bear.

Ankara has appealed to Russia and Iran, its uneasy negotiating partners, for a diplomatic resolution to the ticking bomb. At the same time, it has sent reinforcements of its troops ringing Idlib, a move designed to ward off a ground assault, at least for now.

A wide offensive is likely only after a green light from Russia. But delicate diplomatic moves

are at work. Moscow is keen on strengthening ties with Turkey at a time when Ankara's relations are at their lowest with the U.S. Turkey, by calling on the U.S. and Europe for support, seems to be playing on that interest to pressure Russia to accept its proposals for a solution on Idlib that avoids an attack.

On Monday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was to meet for the second time in 10 days with Russia's Vladimir Putin, this time in Sochi, Russia.

"After proving its influence in Syria and the Middle East, Russia wants to pull Turkey away from the West much more than achieve a military victory over the armed Syrian opposition," Mustafa Ellabbad, an expert on Turkish-Arab relations, wrote in Kuwait's al-Qabas newspaper.

The province, the size of Lebanon, has been the beating heart of the rebellion for years. In rebel hands since 2015, it is the largest contiguous territory they controlled. It has access to Turkish borders, securing supply lines for weapons, fighters and aid.

For the past two years, Idlib became the shoebox into which were pushed an estimated 200,000 rebel fighters from around the country after their losses to government troops and surrender deals negotiated with Russia and Damascus following devastating sieges. Civilians who refused to go back under government rule also were bused there, nearly doubling the province's population.

Among the estimated 60,000 opposition fighters in Idlib are at least 10,000 radicals affiliated with the al-Qaida-linked group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (Arabic for Levant Liberation Committee). Thousands of foreign fighters, from China, Europe and the

Middle East are the backbone of the radical groups.

The Turkish reinforcements are going to 12 observation points that Ankara set up around Idlib last year under a deal with Russia and Iran creating a "de-escalation zone." The deal also effectively stopped an earlier government advance and set Turkey up as Idlib's protector.

Separately, Turkey has troops stationed in the enclave under its control north and east of Idlib, where it backs Syrian opposition fighters and a civilian administration. It is part of its plan to create a safe area along the border where some of the more than 3 million Syrian refugees it hosts may return.

Syrian forces and Iran-backed militias are likely to avoid a clash with the Turkish troops. But the stance of the Syrian government and Iran is clear-cut: They vow to recapture all Syrian territory and are loath to see an expansion of Turkish and American influence. They argue the West fueled jihadis with past support for the opposition and now must let Syria get rid of them.

"Assad and Russia gave the choice to the international community: First we kill everybody. Second thing, (they said) if you want to protect (Idlib), then take those people you think are nice ... It is cynical but puts the international community before its contradictions," said Fabrice Balanche, a Syria watcher at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Al-Mustafa, the National Front spokesman, said the rebels are prepared for a battle he called "existential."

But he added, "our cause will not end if we lose this battle."

NATION



GERALD HERBERT/AP

A flooded cemetery is seen during heavy rains from the deadly storm Florence in Marion, S.C., on Sunday.

Flooding spreads as Florence heads northeast

By CHUCK BURTON
Associated Press

WILMINGTON, N.C. — Emergency workers delivered truckloads of food and water to Wilmington, a city of 120,000 people cut off from the rest of the state by Florence's still-rising floodwaters, as helicopters and boats pulled people from homes swamped by swollen rivers.

The deadly storm still had abundant rain and top winds of about 30 mph early Monday, and forecasters said it was expected to gradually pick up forward speed and complete a big turn toward the Northeast, which is in for as much as 6 inches of rain.

Flooding worries increased in West Virginia and Virginia, where roads were closed and power outages were on the rise. About 500,000 homes and businesses were in the dark.

In some places, the rain stopped after Florence moved on and the sun peeked through, but North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper urged residents who were evacuated

from the hardest-hit areas to stay away because of closed roads and flooding.

"There's too much going on," he said at a news conference.

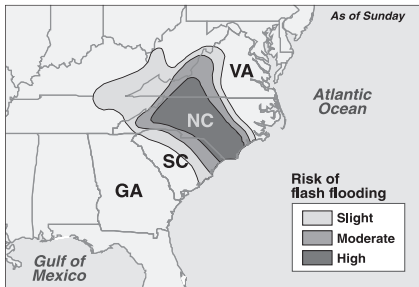
The death toll climbed to 18 as authorities found the body of a 1-year-old boy who was swept away after his mother drove into floodwaters and lost her grip on him while trying to get back to dry land.

Florence was still massive despite being downgraded to a tropical depression from a once-fearsome Category 4 hurricane. Radar showed parts of the sprawling storm over six states, with North and South Carolina in the bull's-eye.

North Carolina emergency response officials tweeted that 23 truckloads of military meals and bottled water were delivered overnight to Wilmington, the state's eighth-largest city.

Signs on a flooded highway leading out of town said "ROAD CLOSED," and many streets that weren't flooded were blocked by fallen timber. The smell of cracked

Areas facing risk of flash flooding



SOURCE: NOAA

NOAA Arib-Bay/Stars and Stripes

pine trees wafted through hard-hit neighborhoods.

Residents waited for hours outside stores and restaurants for water and other basic necessities. Police guarded the door of one

store, and only 10 people were allowed inside at a time.

Desperate for gas to run a generator at home, Nick Monroe waited in a half-mile-long line at a Speedway station even though the

pumps were wrapped in plastic. His power went off Thursday before Florence hit the coast, but he couldn't recall exactly when.

"It's all kind of a blur," Monroe said.

County Commission Chairman Woody White said officials were planning for food and water to be flown into the coastal city, located on a peninsula with the rising Cape Fear River to the west and more water to the east.

To the north, in Pollockville, Coast Guard members used a basket suspended from a helicopter to rescue a man from the roof of a flooded home.

About 70 miles away from the coast, residents near the Lumber River stepped from their homes directly into boats floating in their front yards. River forecasts showed that the scene could be repeated in towns as far as 250 miles inland as waters rise for days.

Fears of what could be the worst flooding in the state's history led officials to order tens of thousands to evacuate, though it wasn't clear how many had fled or even could.

Pentagon deploys thousands of troops to the Carolinas

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has sent some 13,000 servicemembers to areas affected by Hurricane Florence in North and South Carolina, where they are charged with search and rescue and other operations as flooding worsened throughout the region Monday.

National Guard members from both states have conducted more than 60 operations, including about 35 search, rescue and safety missions, since the deadly storm made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane Friday, according to officials with U.S. Northern Command. In addition, Coast Guard crews — some 3,000 members are aiding in relief efforts — were also busy throughout the weekend rescuing 193 people in North Carolina, according to the service.

Federal officials said Monday that the storm was responsible for at least 18 deaths as it dumped as

much as 30 inches of rain in some areas of North Carolina, leading to widespread flooding that has shut down large portions of roads, including interstate highways. Some 523,000 homes remained without power Monday, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Meanwhile, servicemembers from installations across the eastern United States arrived over the weekend at staging locations including the Army's Fort Bragg in North Carolina and Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia, as well as at the North Air Force Auxiliary Field in South Carolina. Just off the East Coast, the Navy's USS Kearsarge, an amphibious assault ship, and the USS Arlington, an amphibious transport dock, were prepared to respond if needed, according to NORTHCOM. The warships were carrying hundreds of Marines and sailors, as well as Osprey tiltrotor aircraft and helicopters. As of Monday afternoon, their assis-

To view video of the military response, go to:
starsandstripes.com/go/florence



tance had not been requested, according to a Navy spokesman.

The Army has deployed more than 90 helicopters, 3,000 high-water vehicles and 30 watercraft from Fort Stewart in Georgia, Fort Drum in New York and Fort Campbell in Kentucky to assist with recovery and rescue efforts, a service spokesman said Monday. Soldiers stationed at Fort Bragg also were assisting in rescue operations. Paratroopers with the post's 82nd Airborne Division acted first responders as they rescued nearly 30 people over the weekend, according to the Army.

Meanwhile, Fort Bragg officials warned the installation could receive another 1 to 2 inches of rain as the remnants of Florence moved north Monday.

Servicemembers at Fort Bragg were instructed in a post on the

installation's Facebook page to contact their chain of command for guidance on reporting for duty in the coming days.

Most of the installation's services remained closed Monday, though the commissary and the Post Exchange on North Post were scheduled to be open through 6 p.m.

At Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, officials were working to restore power Monday. Installation officials announced the base would not require nonessential personnel to return to work until Sept. 24.

Naval Station Norfolk returned to business as usual Monday. Nearly 30 ships and 128 aircraft began the journey back to the Hampton Roads area over the weekend and will continue to return to homeport over the next several days, according to a Saturday news release from U.S. Fleet Forces Command.

The aircraft began returning

Saturday and the ships on Sunday.

"I am very proud of the hard work and dedication of our total force — sailors, civilians and families — who worked so hard to prepare for a major hurricane in our area," said the commander of Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, Rear Adm. Charles Rock. "We were so fortunate Hurricane Florence did not impact us but are thinking of those who felt the brunt of the storm in North Carolina."

On Saturday, the commander of Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, Brig. Gen. James F. Glynn, posted a video to Facebook updating the community on operations. In the background, new Marines can be seen training. The base is set to receive new recruits Tuesday night, and a graduation for Friday is on schedule, according to the recruit depot.

Stars and Stripes reporter Rose Thayer contributed to this report.
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NATION

Typhoon, hurricane: Nature expresses fury in sundry ways

By SETH BORENSTEIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Nature expresses its fury in sundry ways. Two deadly storms — Hurricane Florence and Typhoon Mangkhut — roared ashore on the same day, half a world apart, but the way they spread devastation was as different as water and wind.

Storms in the western Pacific generally hit with much higher winds, and the people who live in their way are often poorer and more vulnerable, Princeton University hurricane and climate scientist Gabriel Vecchi said Saturday. That will likely determine the type of destruction.

Mangkhut made landfall Friday on the northeastern tip of Luzon island in the Philippines with top-of-the-scale Category 5 winds of 165 mph. Florence had weakened to a Category 1 storm with 90 mph winds by the time it arrived at North Carolina's coast.

Yet a day after landfall, the faster-moving Mangkhut was back out over open water — weakened but headed across the South China Sea toward China. Florence, meanwhile, was still plodding across South Carolina at a pace slower than a normal person walks. By Saturday morning, it had already dumped more than 30 inches of rain, a record for North Carolina.

Experts say Mangkhut may well end up being the deadliest storm. As of Saturday afternoon, the death count in the Philippines was a bit higher, although still far below that of other storms that have hit the disaster-prone island nation. But Florence's watery insured damage total will eventually be higher, Ernst Rauch, head of climate research for the world's largest reinsurer, Munich Re, told German media.

That's because of a combination of geography, climatic conditions and human factors.

The western Pacific has 2½ times more storms that reach the minimum hurricane strength of 74 mph. It has 3½ times more storms that reach major hurricane strength of 111 mph, and three times more accumulated energy out of those hurricanes, an index that measures not just strength

and number of storms but how long they last, according to more than 65 years of storm data.

So far this year, there have been 23 named storms in the western Pacific and 10 in the Atlantic, both regions more than 30 percent busier than average years. Hurricanes and typhoons are the same type of storm; both are tropical cyclones, but those that occur in the Pacific west of the International Date Line are called typhoons.

The water in the western Pacific is warmer, and warm water fuels

‘Mangkhut and Florence are certainly different animals.’

Phil Klotzbach
Colorado State University hurricane researcher

“If we are ever going to have a Category 6 (a speculated-on level that's above current measurement tools), the western Pacific is where it's going to be,” said meteorologist Ryan Maue, of weathermodels.com.

The Philippines tends to get hit nearly every year, the Carolinas far less frequently — though with lots of close calls, Maue said. That shows another big difference in the storms. Mangkhut formed farther south and stayed south — over warmer water. Florence was out of the tropics when it hit land.

Because of that, Florence was weakened by the dry air and upper level winds of the higher latitudes. Not so the more southerly Mangkhut, which, Maue said, “essentially had a perfect environment to intensify to a Category 5 and stay there.”

“Mangkhut and Florence are certainly different animals,” said Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach. Because Florence is moving so slowly, he said, it will dump more rain than Mangkhut, which is named for the Thai word for the mangosteen fruit.

Both storms have lasted a long time, especially Florence, which formed all the way over near Af-

ricans. There are also only a few pieces of land to get in the way and weaken them, said University of Miami hurricane researcher Brian McNoldy.



GERRY BROOME/AP

A man tries to get his dog out of a flooded neighborhood in Lumberton, N.C., on Monday in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence.



AARON FAVILA/AP

A resident walks beside a toppled basketball net after Typhoon Mangkhut barreled across Tuguegarao city, Cagayan province, northeastern Philippines, on Saturday.

rica 15 days before landfall, McNoldy said. Both storms cover a large area, but Mangkhut still dwarfs Florence. Mangkhut's tropical storm-force winds stretched more than 325 miles from the center, while Florence's spread about 195 miles, Klotzbach said.

Economics also play a role in a storm's impact. As a developing country, the Philippines is much poorer than the southeastern United States, which means houses tend to be less sturdy, and first responders less well-equipped, among other factors. This is one reason why, when disaster does strike, the effects can

be devastating.

In 2013, one of the most powerful storms on record, Typhoon Haiyan, killed 7,300 people and displaced more than 5 million when it swept across the islands of the central Philippines.

Straddling the famous Pacific Ring of Fire, the Philippines is also bedeviled by volcanoes and earthquakes, and while there are considerable patches of poverty in the Carolinas, it is not the same as the rural area where Mangkhut hit.

Munich Re's Rauch said about 30 to 50 percent of storm damage is usually insured in the United

States but often less than 10 percent in developing countries, meaning nine-tenths of the people hit will end up shouldering a bigger economic burden.

In the United States, “you can't move houses, but people can move out of the way,” reflecting mounting damages from storms and often lower losses in life, Vecchi said.

As the world warms from the burning of fossil fuels, the globe will see both more extremely intense storms like Mangkhut and wetter storms like Florence, Vecchi said.

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NATION

Kavanaugh, accuser willing to testify to Senate panel

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Brett Kavanaugh and the woman accusing him of a decades-old sexual assault both indicated Monday that they would be willing to testify to a Senate panel as the confirmation of President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee shifted from seemingly painless to problematic.

Kavanaugh was seen arriving at the White House, with no immediate reason given, while all 10 Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee wrote the panel's Republican chairman asking him to postpone a scheduled Thursday vote on the nominee to give the FBI more time to investigate.

Democrats and some Republican senators have expressed concern over Christine Blasey Ford's private-turned-public accusation that a drunken Kavanaugh groped her and tried to take off her clothes at a party when both were teenagers at high schools in suburban Maryland.

Kavanaugh released a new statement calling the allegation "completely false" and saying he "had no idea who was making this accusation until she identified herself" on Sunday to The Washington Post.

"I am willing to talk to the Senate Judiciary Committee in any way the Committee deems appropriate to refute this false allegation, from 36 years ago, and defend my integrity," Kavanaugh said.

Debra S. Katz, the attorney for the woman, said her client considered the incident to be an attempted rape.

"She believes that if we were not for the severe intoxication of Brett Kavanaugh, she would have been raped," Katz told NBC's "Today."

Kavanaugh, 53, "categorically and unequivocally" denied the allegations when they came out anonymously last week.

"This has not changed," said White House spokesman Kerri Kupec on Monday.

"Judge Kavanaugh and the White House both stand by that statement."

Still, White House counselor Kellyanne Conway said of Ford: "She should not be insulted. She should not be ignored. She should testify under oath and she should do it on Capitol Hill."

Conway, who said she had discussed the situation with Trump, said that both Ford and Kavanaugh should testify, but made clear it was up to the Judiciary Committee. She said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., had told her it could happen as soon as Tuesday and the White House will "respect the process."

Stressing that Kavanaugh already had testified and had undergone FBI background checks, Conway said, "I think you have to weigh this testimonial evidence

from Dr. Ford and Judge Kavanaugh along with the considerable body of evidence that is already there about the judge's temperament and qualifications and character."

In morning television interviews, Katz said her client was willing to tell her story in public to the Judiciary panel, although no lawmakers or their aides had yet contacted her. Katz also denied that Ford is a Democrat, is politically motivated.

"No one in their right mind, regardless of their motives, would want to inject themselves into this process and face the kind of violation that she will be subjected to by those who want this nominee to go through. ... She was quite reluctant to come forward."

Initially, the sexual misconduct allegation was conveyed in a private letter, without revealing Ford's name. With a name and disturbing details, the accusation raised the prospect of congressional Republicans defending Trump's nominee ahead of midterm elections featuring an unprecedented number of female candidates and informed in part by the #MeToo movement.

Ford told the Post that Kavanaugh pinned her to a bed at a Maryland party in the early 1980s, clumsily tried to remove her clothing and put his hand over her mouth when she tried to scream.

She said Kavanaugh and a friend — both "stumbling drunk," she said — corralled her in a bedroom when she was about 15 and Kavanaugh was about 17. She said Kavanaugh groped her over her clothes, ground his body against hers and tried to take off her one-piece swimsuit and the outfit she wore over it. Kavanaugh covered her mouth with his hand when she tried to scream, she said, and she escaped when the friend, Mark Judge, jumped on them.

Kavanaugh attended a private school for boys in Maryland while Ford attended a nearby school.

A split over the nomination seemed to be emerging among the GOP.

The GOP-controlled Judiciary Committee previously has scheduled the Thursday vote on whether to recommend approval of Kavanaugh's nomination in the full Senate. Critics already have accused the GOP of fast-tracking the process to get Kavanaugh on the court by Oct. 1, the first day of the fall term.

Democrats called for a delay in the vote, and two committee Republicans — all 11 on the GOP side are men — Graham and Sen. Jeff Flake, of Arizona, said they wanted to hear more from Ford. Flake went as far as to say he was "not comfortable" voting for Kavanaugh for the time being.

A potential "no" vote from Flake would complicate the judge's prospects. A Republican not on the committee, Sen. Bob Corker,

of Tennessee, said the vote should be postponed until the committee heard from Ford. Contacted Sunday by CNN, Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, wouldn't say if the vote should be postponed.

A committee spokesman said late Sunday that its chairman, Sen. Chuck Grassley, of Iowa, was trying to arrange separate, follow-up calls with Kavanaugh and Ford, but just for aides to Grassley and Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., before Thursday's scheduled vote.

The allegation against Kavanaugh first came to light late last week in the form of a letter that had been for some time in the possession of Feinstein, the top Democrat on the Judiciary Committee and one of its four female members. On Sunday, The Washington Post published an interview with Ford.

"I thought he might inadvertently kill me," said Ford, 51, a clinical psychology professor at Palo Alto University in California. "He was trying to attack me and remove my clothing."

In the interview, Ford said she never revealed what had hap-



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh waits to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Sept. 6, the third day of his confirmation hearing, on Capitol Hill.

pened to her until 2012, when she and her husband sought couples therapy. Ford's husband, Russell Ford, said he recalled his wife using Kavanaugh's last name and expressing concern that Kavanaugh — then a federal judge — might someday be nominated to the Supreme Court.

Senate Republicans, along with the White House, see no need to postpone voting over what they consider uncorroborated and unverifiable accusations, according to a person familiar with the situation but not authorized to speak publicly.

Grassley could invite Ford to testify, likely in closed session before Thursday. Kavanaugh also

probably would be asked to appear before senators. The panel also likely would seek testimony from Judge, Kavanaugh's friend and classmate who Ford has said jumped on top of her. Judge has denied that the incident happened.

The controversy comes 27 years after the bruising confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, who was accused of sexually harassing attorney Anita Hill at two federal jobs, including when he chaired the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that handles harassment and discrimination issues. Thomas was confirmed on a 52-48 vote.

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NATION

NTSB: Pressure sensors focus of gas explosions probe in Boston suburbs

Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Mass. — The investigation into the Boston-area natural gas explosions is partially focused on pressure sensors that were connected to a gas line that was being taken out of service shortly before the blasts, the head of the National Transportation Safety Board said Sunday.

NTSB Chairman Robert Sumwalt said the sensors can signal for gas pressure to be increased if the pressure gets too low. He said investigators will try to determine whether those sensors played any role in Thursday's explosions and fires.

Dozens of homes were destroyed or damaged, a teenager was killed and dozens of people were injured in Lawrence, North Andover and Andover. Thousands were forced to leave their homes.

Also Sunday, residents in the three communities north of Boston were allowed to return to their homes after crews finished shutting off nearly 8,600 gas meters. Electricity was restored to all the affected homes and businesses, but gas service may not be restored for weeks.

"It's evident to me and to all of

us the Merrimack Valley and the residents of our state are being as supportive as they can be and as kind as they can be to one another during this most difficult time," Gov. Charlie Baker said at a news conference Sunday. "We still have a very long way to go but we're very happy that people can return to their homes this morning."

Lawrence schools will be closed Monday because of the natural gas situation, officials said.

Sumwalt said the investigation is focused on high pressure in pipelines. On Saturday, he said officials will be looking at how local Columbia Gas officials responded to a "pressure increase" in the Lawrence area that was detected at the company's pipeline control center in Columbus, Ohio, prior to the explosions and fires. He said there was no evidence the explosions were intentional.

Joe Hamrock, chief executive of Columbia Gas' parent company, NiSource, said Sunday that the company was taking full responsibility for what happened and is implementing a service restoration plan.

"We're in this for the long run," Hamrock said.

Study: Healthy older people not aided by low-dose aspirin

The Washington Post

A regimen of low-dose aspirin offers healthy, older people no benefit in staving off cardiovascular disease, dementia or disability and increases their risk of bleeding in the digestive tract and brain, according to a large study released Sunday.

Millions of healthy people take small doses of aspirin regularly in the belief that the drug will prevent heart attacks and strokes. But when researchers looked at more than 19,000 people in Australia and the United States over nearly five years, they found it wasn't so.

There is good evidence for people with known cardiovascular problems to take aspirin. But it had been unclear whether healthy people older than 70 would derive the same benefit.

"Clinical guidelines note the benefits of aspirin for preventing heart attacks and strokes in persons with vascular conditions such as coronary artery disease," Richard Hodes, director of the National Institute on Aging, which helped fund the research, said in a news release. "The con-

cern has been uncertainty about whether aspirin is beneficial for otherwise healthy older people without those conditions."

The test subjects, most of them from Australia, were older than 70, except for blacks and Hispanics in the U.S., who were recruited at 65 or older because people in those groups have a higher risk of heart disease and cardiovascular problems than whites. About half of them took 100 milligrams of aspirin daily (slightly more than a baby aspirin, which has 81 milligrams) and the other half were given a placebo. They were followed for a median of 4.7 years.

The results of the study, led by John McNeil, of Monash University in Melbourne, were released Sunday in the New England Journal of Medicine. It was called the Aspirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly trial.

One surprise for the researchers was that the group that took aspirin died at a slightly higher rate from all causes than the group that didn't. The difference was attributed almost entirely to cancer, a leading killer of older people, and not internal bleeding.

But the researchers interpreted the data cautiously, because other studies have shown aspirin to have a protective effect against colorectal cancer.

The researchers did not state whether healthy older people who have been taking aspirin should stop. And the findings do not apply to black or Hispanic people younger than 65 or others younger than 70.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends people between 50 and 59 take low doses of aspirin to prevent cardiovascular problems and colorectal cancer if they have a 10 percent or greater chance of events such as heart attacks and strokes and do not have conditions that increase their chances of bleeding. The risk is generally calculated using factors such as age, blood pressure, cholesterol levels, smoking history and conditions such as diabetes.

For people 60 to 69 with a 10 percent or greater risk of cardiovascular events, the task force considers the decision an individual one. For people older than 70, the task force says it does not have enough information.



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NATION

Police: Border agent confessed to killings

Associated Press

LAREDO, Texas — A U.S. Border Patrol supervisor who confessed to killing four women and assaulting a fifth who managed to escape remained in jail Monday, police said in court records.

Juan David Ortiz is being held in Laredo on \$2.5 million bond on four counts of murder, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and unlawful restraint.

According to affidavits, Ortiz, 35, "provided a voluntary verbal confession" early Saturday in the deaths of the women.

Ortiz was arrested a day after being found hiding in a truck in a hotel parking lot in Laredo about 2 a.m. Saturday, capping what investigators portrayed as a 10-day string of violence. Webb County District Attorney Isidro Alaniz said Saturday that investigators "consider this to be a serial killer" whose victims were believed to be prostitutes.

Alaniz described how the Customs and Border Patrol supervisor continued going to work as usual throughout that time.

"As law enforcement was looking for the killer ... he would be reporting to work every day like normal," he said.

It all began with the discovery Sept. 4 of the body of Melissa Ramirez, 29.

According to court records, Ortiz said he killed Ramirez a day earlier. Like the other victims, Ramirez was shot in the head and left in a road in rural northwest

Webb County.

She was a mother of two. Her mother, Maria Cristina Benavides, told the San Antonio Express-News on Sunday that she had been collecting donations on a street corner Saturday to pay for her daughter's funeral.

"I hurt a lot. All I want is justice. I want that guy to die in jail for taking the life of my daughter," Benavides said.

A second victim, Claudine Anne Luera, 42, was found shot and left in the road Thursday morning, badly injured but still alive, according to the affidavit. The mother of five died at a hospital later that day.

On Friday, according to the affidavit, Ortiz picked up a woman named Erika Pena. She told police she struggled with Ortiz inside his truck, where he pointed a pistol at her, but that she was able to flee. She made it to a gas station where she found a state trooper whom she asked for help.

According to the affidavit, Ortiz told investigators that after Pena ran off, he picked up his last two victims, whose identities have not yet been released by authorities.

Alaniz said one of the unnamed victims was a transgender woman. At least two were U.S. citizens; the nationalities of the others were not known, he said. He said investigators are still working to determine a motive.

Ortiz was believed to have acted alone. Jail records don't list an attorney to speak



WEBB COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE/AP

Juan David Ortiz, a U.S. Border Patrol supervisor who was jailed Sunday on \$2.5 million bond in Texas, confessed to killing four women, according to police records.

for Ortiz, who had worked for Border Patrol for 10 years. He is the second Border Patrol agent in Laredo to be arrested on a murder charge this year after Ronald Anthony Burgos-Aviles was accused of killing a woman with whom he was romantically involved and her 1-year-old child. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty in that case.

Survey finds 2M US teens vaping pot

By CARLA K. JOHNSON
Associated Press

A school-based survey shows nearly 1 in 11 U.S. students have used marijuana in electronic cigarettes, heightening concern about the new popularity of vaping among teens.

E-cigarettes typically contain nicotine, but results published Monday mean 2.1 million middle and high school students have used them to get high.

The devices are generally considered a less dangerous alternative to regular cigarettes, despite little research on their

long-term effects including whether they help smokers quit.

The rise in teenagers using them has alarmed health officials. Last week, the Food and Drug Administration gave the device the largest e-cigarette makers 60 days to produce plans to stop underage use of their products.

Nearly 9 percent of students surveyed in 2016 said they used an e-cigarette device with marijuana, according to Monday's report in the journal JAMA Pediatrics.

The number is worrying "because cannabis use among youth can adversely affect learning and memory and may impair later academic achievement and education," said lead researcher Katrina Trivers, of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

It was the first time a question about marijuana vaping was asked on this particular survey, which uses a nationally representative sample of students in public and private schools. More than 20,000 students took the survey in 2016.

A different survey from the University of Michigan in December found similar results when it asked for the first time about 10th-graders said they vaped marijuana in the past year.

"The health risks of vaping reside not only in the vaping devices, but in the social environment that comes with it," said University of Michigan researcher Richard Miech. Kids who vape are more likely to become known as drug users and make friends with drug users, he said, adding that "hanging out with drug users is a substantial risk factor for future drug use."

Accused killer served 8 years in US Navy

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — For nearly eight years, accused serial killer Juan David Ortiz served as a corpsman in the U.S. Navy at installations in Texas and California, according to his service record.

Ortiz, 35, was arrested Saturday and charged with murdering four women in Laredo, Texas, where he has worked as a Border Patrol agent for U.S. Customs and Border Protection. He is now in Webb County jail with a bond of more than \$2.5 million, according to online jail records.

He enlisted in July 2001, and after six months of training at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Ill., and Navy

Medicine Training Support Center in Fort Sam Houston, Texas, was stationed at Camp Pendleton, Calif., according to information from the Navy Personnel Command.

A few months later, Ortiz was sent to the 1st Marine Division Detachment at Twentynine Palms, Calif., where he spent the next three years. That unit was involved in the 2003 invasion of Iraq. Ortiz's released service ribbons do not indicate that he participated. If he deployed on a temporary assignment, it likely would not be included in his releasable service assignments.

In April 2005, Ortiz was sent to Navy Element, Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute Detachment at Fort Sam Houston for three years. That in-

stitute trains Army, Navy and Air Force professionals in trauma care, burn care, joint medical operations, disaster preparedness, humanitarian assistance and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear preparation and response.

Ortiz spent his final year in the Navy at Fort Sam Houston's Navy Medical Training Support Center. It is the administrative arm of the Navy's medical programs in the San Antonio area.

He left the Navy in May 2009 at the rank of petty officer 2nd class. His awards and decorations include the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal and the Rifle Marksmanship Ribbon.

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SpaceX set to announce private moon flight passenger

Associated Press

HAWTHORNE, Calif. — SpaceX is on the verge of announcing the name of the person who would be the first private passenger on a trip around the moon.

The identity of the traveler was scheduled to be revealed at SpaceX headquarters in Hawthorne, Calif., during an event Monday evening.

SpaceX gave no details of the flight but said it would be "an

important step toward enabling access for everyday people who dream of traveling to space."

SpaceX founder and chief executive Elon Musk outlined a somewhat different mission last year.

Musk said two people who know each other approached the company about a weeklong flight to the moon and back.

He had said that the trip would happen this year and would not involve a landing but rather a long loop around the moon. Musk

did not name the clients last year or say how much they would pay.

Musk said the pair had paid a "significant" deposit and were "entering this with their eyes open, knowing that there is some risk here."

That original mission would have used a Falcon Heavy rocket — the most powerful rocket flying today — and a Dragon crew capsule similar to the one NASA astronauts will use to fly to the International Space Station as

early as next year.

The new SpaceX strategy is to still fly around the moon without landing but to use an even bigger rocket still in development that has its own dedicated passenger ship. The rocket dubbed BFR has not been built so any flight presumably is at least several years away.

On its website, SpaceX is touting the "first passenger on lunar BFR mission," implying there will be more moon trips.

Astronauts last visited the moon during NASA's Apollo program. From 1968 through 1972, 24 men flew to the moon and half of them made it to the lunar surface.

The space agency is planning its own lunar flyby with a crew around 2023.

It also aims to build a staffed gateway near the moon during the 2020s. The outpost would serve as a stepping-off point for the lunar surface, Mars and points beyond.

NATION

GOP, White House fret about midterm election prospects

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The prognosis for President Donald Trump and his party was grim.

In a post-Labor Day briefing at the White House, a top Republican polster told senior staff that the determining factor in the election wouldn't be the improving economy or the steady increase in job creation. It would be how voters felt about Trump.

And the majority of the electorate, including a sizable percentage of Republican-leaning voters, doesn't feel good about the president, according to a presentation from pollster Neil Newhouse that spanned dozens of pages.

Newhouse's briefing came amid a darkening mood among Republican officials as the November election nears. Party leaders were already worried that a surge in enthusiasm among Democrats and disdain for Trump by moderate Republicans would put the House out of reach. But some Republicans now fear their Senate majority is also in peril — a scenario that was unthinkable a few

months ago given the favorable Senate map for the GOP.

"For Republican candidates to win in swing states, they need all of the voters who support President Trump, plus a chunk of those who do not," said Whit Ayres, a GOP pollster. "That is threatening a very narrow strategic need."

Operatives in both parties say Republicans still have the edge in the fight for control of the Senate. But GOP officials are increasingly worried that nominees in conservative-leaning states like Missouri and Indiana are underperforming, while races in Tennessee and Texas that should be slam-dunks for Republicans are close.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell raised an alarm last week, warning that each of the competitive Senate races would be "like a knife fight in an alley." Some of the public fretting among Republicans appears to be strategic, as party officials try to motivate both voters and donors. Many moderate Republican vot-



EVAN VUCCA/AP

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., left, and Speaker of the House Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., right, listen as President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with Republican lawmakers in the Roosevelt Room of the White House on Sept. 5.

ers "don't believe there is anything at stake in this election," according to the documents Newhouse presented to White House officials. He attributed that belief in part to a disregard for public polling, given that most surveys showed Democrat Hillary Clinton defeating Trump in the 2016 presidential election.

Newhouse and the White House would not comment on the early

September meeting. The Associated Press obtained a copy of Newhouse's presentation, and two Republicans with knowledge of the briefing discussed the details on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak about the matter publicly.

At the White House, anxiety over the midterms has been on the rise for months as polls increasingly show a challenging

environment for the GOP and heightened Democratic enthusiasm. The sheer number of competitive races in both the House and Senate is stretching cash reserves and forcing tough calculations about where to deploy resources and surrogates. And there are growing fears that the coalition of voters that delivered Trump to the White House will not come out for midterms.

Gun control group's political arm pouring millions into fall election

By KATIE ZEZIMA

The Washington Post

The Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund is spending millions to support candidates in four states, underscoring the extent to which gun control is shaping up to be an issue in the November midterm election.

The fund, the political arm of the gun control group Everytown for Gun Safety, plans to spend \$8 million to \$10 million in Georgia, Michigan, Nevada and New Mexico as an initial investment in the election. It will include contributions to candidates as well as independent expenditures such as mail, television, radio and digital ads.

"This is not a movement of blue states. This is a movement of Americans," said John Feinblatt, president of Everytown for Gun Safety, a nonprofit organization. "The old third-rail warnings are out the window, and you can redraw the map and work on gun safety virtually anywhere in this country."

Feinblatt said the initial sum is a "curtain-raiser" on what will come between now and the election.

Everytown's strategy to change gun laws has focused on statehouses. The focus on individual races is an outgrowth of that, Feinblatt said, and resources are being

used where the group thinks it can make the most difference.

In Georgia, the group is spending money on Democrat Stacey Abrams' gubernatorial race. Abrams has called for universal background checks for firearms

'This is not a movement of blue states. This is a movement of Americans.'

John Feinblatt
Everytown for Gun
Safety president

for a seat in Georgia's 6th Congressional District. McBeth's son, Jordan Davis, 17, was fatally shot in 2012 during a dispute about loud music as he was sitting in a car outside a gas station in Jacksonville, Fla. McBeth became a gun control advocate after her son's death and has worked with Everytown. The group has given her \$1.2 million.

"Abrams and McBeth talk about gun safety, and they reflect where Georgians stand on the issue," Feinblatt said.

In Michigan, the group is supporting Democrat Gretchen Whitmer for governor and Democrat Dana Nessel for attorney general. Whitmer has called for waiting periods and stronger background checks to buy guns as well as a ban on assault-style weapons and bump stocks.

The group is also trying to challenge the conventional wisdom that candidates calling for some controls on guns cannot win in the west. In Nevada, it is attempting to defeat Republican Attorney General Adam Laxalt, who is running for governor. Laxalt opposed a 2016 ballot initiative, approved by Nevada voters, that expanded background checks. Laxalt and Republican Gov. Brian Sandoval were sued for not implementing the law. The group is putting money into the campaign of Democrat Steve Sisolak.

In New Mexico, Everytown's action fund is backing the gubernatorial campaign of Democrat Michelle Lujan Grisham. She has said that if she is elected she will work for bipartisan gun safety legislation, including banning semi-automatic assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, prohibiting people convicted of domestic violence and stalking misdemeanors from buying firearms, and studying ways to prevent gun violence.



COURTESY OF EMMA NOZZELL/AP

Then-presidential hopeful Donald Trump poses with Emma Nozell, left, and her sister, Addy, in Laconia, N.H., in July 2015.

Mom of teens who snagged selfies runs for state office

Associated Press

MERRIMACK, N.H. — A New Hampshire woman whose daughters snagged selfies with every candidate in the 2016 presidential campaign is now running her own campaign for state office.

Wendy Thomas, a Democrat from Merrimack, is running for a seat in the New Hampshire House. The town is currently represented by seven Republicans.

In the lead-up to New Hampshire's last presidential primary,

her teenage daughters, Addy and Emma Nozell, became known for getting candidates to pose with them for photos.

The girls said their parents had always made a point to take them to political events, and the family often discussed what they heard over dinner.

Thomas said the experience was empowering for both her and her daughters, and she wants to show them that any change requires people to step up.

WORLD

Hope fades in Philippines for dozens trapped

By JOEAL CALUPITAN
AND AARON FAVILA
Associated Press

ITOGON, Philippines — A Philippine mayor said Monday that it's unlikely any of the dozens of people thought buried in a huge landslide set off by Typhoon Mangkhut will be found alive, though rescuers were still digging through the massive mound of mud and debris covering a chapel where they had sheltered.

Mayor Victorio Palangdan, of Itogon, in Benguet province, which was among the worst-hit areas by the typhoon that struck Saturday, said at a news conference that of the 40 to 50 people thought buried, there's a "99 percent (chance) that they really are all dead."

Mangkhut killed at least 66 people since it tore through the Philippines. The storm killed another four people in China, where Mangkhut weakened to a tropical storm as it churned inland Monday.

Palangdan said rescuers have dug out 11 bodies from the landslide, which is covering a former miners' bunkhouse that had been turned into a chapel. Dozens of residents sought shelter there during the storm despite warnings it was dangerous.

"They laughed at our policemen. They insisted," he said. "They were resisting when our police tried to pull them away. What can we do?"

Hundreds of rescuers, including police and soldiers, scrambled to search for the missing as grief-stricken relatives waited nearby,



Rescuers on Monday retrieve a body at the site where victims are believed to have been buried by a landslide after Typhoon Mangkhut lashed Itogon, Benguet province, northern Philippines on Saturday.

many of them quietly praying.

"We will not stop until we recover all the bodies," Palangdan said.

Most of those buried in the slide are thought to be poor miners and their families. In order to prevent such tragedies going forward, Environmental Secretary Roy Cimatu said the government would deploy soldiers and police to stop illegal mining in

six mountainous northern provinces, including Benguet.

Philippine officials have said in the past that gold mines tunneled by big mining companies legally or by unauthorized individuals and small outfits have made the hillsides unstable and more prone to landslides. Tens of thousands of small-time miners in recent years have come to the mountain prov-

inces from the lowlands and established communities in high-risk areas like the mountain foothills of Itogon.

Mangkhut on Monday was still affecting southern China's coast and the provinces of Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan, and rain and strong winds were expected to continue through Tuesday.

On Monday afternoon, Mang-

khut was about 124 miles west of the city of Nanning, in the Guangxi region, traveling in a northwest-erly direction and weakening as it progressed.

"We will not stop until we recover all the bodies."

Victorio Palangdan
mayor of Itogon,
Philippines

There were no additional reports of deaths or damage. Life was gradually returning to normal along the hard-hit southern China coast, where high-rises swayed, coastal hotels flooded and windows were blown out. Rail, airline and ferry services had been restored, and casinos in the gambling enclave of Macau had reopened for business.

In Hong Kong, crews were clearing fallen trees and other wreckage left when the financial hub felt the full brunt of the storm on Sunday.

"This typhoon really was superstrong... but overall, I feel we can say we got through it safely," Carrie Lam, the territory's chief executive, told reporters.

The Hong Kong Observatory said Mangkhut was the most powerful cyclone to hit the city since 1979, packing winds of 121 mph.

The typhoon struck Asian population centers as tropical weather also was devastating the southern U.S. Florence has dumped historical levels of rain on North Carolina.

Leak shows Assange sought Russian visa in 2010

By RAPHAEL SATTNER
Associated Press

LONDON — Julian Assange had just pulled off one of the biggest scoops in journalistic history, playing the innards of American diplomacy across the web. But technology firms were cutting ties to his website, WikiLeaks, cable news pundits were calling for his head and a Swedish sex crime case was threatening to put him behind bars.

Caught in a vise, the silver-haired Australian wrote to the Russian Consulate in London.

"I, Julian Assange, hereby grant full authority to my friend, Israel Shamir, to both drop off and collect my passport, in order to get a visa," said the letter, which was recently obtained by The Associated Press.

The Nov. 30, 2010, missive is part of a much larger trove of WikiLeaks emails, chat logs, financial records, secretly recorded footage and other documents leaked to the AP.

The files provide both an intimate look at the radical transparency organization and an insight of Assange's budding relationship with Moscow.

The ex-hacker's links to the Kremlin would become increasingly salient before the 2016 U.S. presidential election, when the FBI says Russia's military intelligence agency directly supplied WikiLeaks with stolen emails from Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman and other Democratic figures.

Representatives for Assange, who has

been barred from internet access at his refuge inside the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, didn't return repeated messages seeking details about the visa bid. Kristinn Hrafnsson, a sometime-spokesman for the group, declined to comment, calling the AP's story "rather uninteresting." The Russian Embassy in London said it didn't discuss the personal details of visa applicants.

WikiLeaks has repeatedly been hit by unauthorized disclosures, but the tens of thousands of files obtained by the AP may be the biggest leak yet.

The AP has confirmed the authenticity of many of the documents by running them by five former WikiLeaks associates or by verifying nonpublic details such as bank accounts, telephone numbers or airline tickets.

One of the former associates, an ex-employee, identified two of the names that frequently appeared in the documents' metadata, "Jessica Longley" and "Jim Evans Mowing," as pseudonyms assigned to two WikiLeaks laptops.

All five former associates spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity, in some cases because they didn't want their past association with WikiLeaks to become public, and in others because they feared legal retaliation or harassment from the group's supporters.

Among other things, the documents lay out Assange's campaign to avoid being arrested and extradited to Sweden over allegations that he sexually molested one woman and raped another during a trip to

the Scandinavian country in August 2010.

Assange has always denied wrongdoing in the case, which he cast as a prelude to extradition to the U.S. The Swedish prosecution jeopardized what at the time was WikiLeaks' biggest-ever disclosure: the publication of about 250,000 U.S. State Department cables. Swedish authorities issued a warrant for his arrest on Nov. 18, 2010, just 10 days before the cables exploded across the web, with bombshell revelations about drone strikes in Yemen, American spying at the U.N. and corruption across the Arab world.

Italy's then-Foreign Minister Franco Frattini described the release as the "Sept. 11 of world diplomacy." Enraged American politicians demanded that Assange be treated like a terrorist.

Metadata suggest that it was on Nov. 29, the day after the release of the first batch of U.S. State Department files, that the letter to the Russian Consulate was drafted on the Jessica Longley computer.

The AP couldn't confirm whether or when the message was actually delivered, but the choice of Israel Shamir as a go-between was significant. Assange's involvement with Shamir, a fringe intellectual who once said it was the duty of every Christian and Muslim to deny the Holocaust, would draw indignation when he became public.

Shamir told the AP he was plagued by memory problems and couldn't remember delivering Assange's letter or say whether he eventually got the visa on Assange's behalf.



SANG TAN/AP

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange arrives at Belmarsh Magistrate's court in London for an extradition hearing in 2011.

"I can't possibly exclude that it happened," Shamir said in a telephone interview. "I have a very vague memory of those things."

Shamir's memory appeared sharper during a Jan. 20, 2011, interview with Russian News Service radio — a Moscow-based station now known as Life Zvuk, or Life Sound. Shamir said he'd personally brokered a Russian visa for Assange, but that it had come too late to rescue him from the sex crimes investigation.

Russia "would be one of those places where he and his organization would be comfortable operating," Shamir explained. Asked if Assange had friends in the Kremlin, Shamir smiled and said, "Let's hope that's the case."

WORLD

Half of Dutch bishops, cardinals linked to abuse

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — A media report linking half of the cardinals and bishops who served in the Netherlands between 1945 and 2010 to abuse cases has drawn the country's Catholic Church into the church's global sex abuse and cover-up scandal.

Respected Dutch daily NRC linked 20 of 39 bishops and cardinals to abuse, saying four bishops committed abuse and another 16 senior clergymen transferred priests who had been accused of abuse to new locations.

The report published in the paper's weekend edition was based on a 2011 Dutch Catholic Church report about abuse, victims' testimony to a commission of inquiry and the newspaper's own research.

UK police reassure public as diners fall ill

LONDON — British police say there is no evidence that the nerve agent Novichok was involved in the case of two people who became ill in a Salisbury restaurant, but the premises remain closed off.

Wiltshire Police said Monday that the two people who fell ill at an Italian restaurant have been clinically assessed and there was no evidence of Novichok. A man in his 40s and a woman in her 30s remain hospitalized.

Authorities responded with extreme caution Sunday in light of the March poisoning of ex-Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter in Salisbury and the subsequent poisoning of two others who came into contact with Novichok.

American-Israeli man stabbed in West Bank

JERUSALEM — A Palestinian assailant on Sunday fatally stabbed an Israeli settler outside a busy mall in the West Bank.

The victim was identified as Ari Fuld, a U.S.-born activist who was well-known in the local settler community and an outspoken Israel advocate on social media platforms.

Video footage showed Fuld giving chase and firing at his assailant before collapsing. Other civilians shot the attacker, whom Israeli media identified as a 17-year-old from a nearby Palestinian village. He was reportedly in moderate condition.

Ethnic-based attacks erupt near Addis Ababa

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — Government officials and residents said overnight ethnic-based attacks in the outskirts of Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, have killed several people and caused hundreds to flee their homes.

"Several lives were lost and properties damaged due to this attack," the head of the Oromia Police Commission, Alemayehu Ejigu, told the state broadcaster ETV on Sunday. He said 70 suspects have been arrested.

The killings were denounced by Ethiopia's new reformist leader.

From The Associated Press

Ship hurts Montenegro-Croatia relations

By DUSAN STOJANOVIC
Associated Press

TIVAT, Montenegro — Montenegro and Croatia have resolved almost all of their differences more than two decades after fighting a war, except for one: a dispute over an 85-year-old former Royal Yugoslav Navy training ship.

The majestic sailing vessel called Jadran, or the Adriatic, is currently part of the Montenegrin naval fleet based in the port of Tivat. Croatia is demanding the return of the tall ship, which Montenegro refuses to do.

The disagreement is so serious that Croatia is threatening to block Montenegro's efforts to join the European Union, and it's also reviving old tensions.

Being part of shrunken Yugoslavia together with Serbia, Montenegrin troops launched an assault against the medieval Croatian town of Dubrovnik in 1991, keeping it under siege for months.

The town, a UNESCO heritage site, was shelled from land and sea before an international outcry stopped the onslaught.

Before the war between the two Adriatic Sea neighbors, the 200-foot white vessel with three masts was docked in the Croatian port of Split before it was moved to Montenegro in 1990 for repairs.

Croatia said its homeport has always been Split, thus it must be returned after it was "illegally" taken.

Montenegro claims that an agreement between the warring sides after the bloody breakup of the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s calls for all military equipment that found itself on a state's territory belongs to that state.

"Jadran became part of this town's history 85 years ago, and I'm confident that it will outlive us all and in the next 85 years continue to welcome new generations, new sailors and new



DARJO BANDIC/AP

The training vessel Jadran is moored in the port of Tivat, Montenegro, on Sept. 6. Montenegro and Croatia remain embroiled in a dispute over the former Royal Yugoslav Navy ship.

visitors," Montenegro Defense Minister Predrag Boskovic said last month in Tivat during the Jadran's 85th anniversary celebrations.

The Croatian Defense Ministry said the return of the Jadran is one of its main foreign policy priorities, and some Croatian officials have hinted the EU-member state would block Montenegro's membership in the bloc if it isn't.

The ship's Montenegrin sailors said they will never surrender their beloved vessel to

Croatia because of its history and the fact that its first docking after delivery from a shipyard in Hamburg, Germany, in 1933 was in Montenegro.

"For Montenegro's navy, this is the most important vessel in historic, cultural and technical terms," said its captain, Zoran Ivanovski.

"To be honest, I'm not paying attention to the Croatian demands," he said. "My job is to command this ship. I have my crew and the ship belongs to Montenegro."

Russia: Missile that shot down flight was Ukrainian

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA
Associated Press

MOSCOW — The Russian military said Monday that the missile that shot down Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, killing all 298 people on board, came from the arsenals of the Ukrainian army, not from Russia.

The jet was shot down by a Soviet-made missile over rebel-held eastern Ukraine in July 2014, about 25 miles from the Russian border, where fighting had been raging for months between Ukrainian forces and Russia-backed separatists.

The Netherlands and Australia

announced in May that they believe the missile was transported to Ukraine from a military unit in the Russian city of Kursk.

Russia has vehemently denied involvement and has over the years come up with various theories as to the cause of the crash, generally laying the blame on the Ukrainian side.

Lt. Gen. Nikolai Parshin, chief of the Missile and Artillery Directorate at the Russian Defense Ministry, told reporters on Monday that the military had studied and declassified archives at the research center outside Moscow that produced the Buk missiles after the Dutch investigators dis-

played parts of the missile and their serial numbers. Parshin said the Russian archives show that the missile that was made of these parts was transported to a military unit in western Ukraine in 1986, and to Russia's knowledge it never left Ukraine.

Asked about the possibility that the separatists may have seized the missile system during fighting in 2014, Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenko conceded that Russia does not have any documents proving otherwise but pointed to the statements of Ukrainian officials who have denied that separatists seized any of their Buks.

The Joint Investigation Team, set up by nations that lost citizens in the MH17 crash, said in a statement that it has "taken note" of the information that the Russian military made public Monday. The investigators said they had asked Russia for information regarding the serial numbers before but had not received a reply.

Oleksandr Turchynov, secretary of Ukraine's Security and Defense Council, said on Monday that Russia's claim is "yet another failed fake report that the Kremlin failed in order to cover up their crime that has been proven by the official investigation as well as independent experts."

Report: Machines to handle half of workplace tasks in future

By JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

GENEVA — More than half of all workplace tasks will be carried out by machines by 2025, organizers of the Davos economic forum said in a report released Monday that highlights the speed with which the labor market will change in coming years.

The World Economic Forum estimates that machines will be responsible for 52 percent of the division of labor as share of hours within seven years, up from just

29 percent today. By 2022, the report says, roughly 75 million jobs worldwide will be lost, but that could be more than offset by the creation of 133 million new jobs.

A major challenge, however, will be training and re-training employees for that new world of work.

"By 2025, the majority of workplace tasks in existence today will be performed by machines or algorithms. At the same time a greater number of new jobs will be created," said Saadia Zahidi, a WEF board member. "Our re-

search suggests that neither businesses nor governments have fully grasped the size of this key challenge of the Fourth Industrial Revolution."

The "Future of Jobs 2018" report, the second of its kind, is based on a survey of executives representing 15 million employees in 20 companies. Its authors say the outlook for job creation has become more positive since the last report in 2016 because businesses have a better sense of the opportunities made possible by technology.

The WEF said challenges for employers include enabling remote work, building safety nets to protect workers and providing re-skilling for employees. However, the report found that only one in three respondents planned to re-skill at-risk workers.

The report said nearly half of all companies expect their full-time workforces to shrink by 2022, while nearly two in five expect to extend their workforce generally, and over one-quarter expect automation to create new roles in their enterprises.

PACIFIC

S. Korea's Moon hopes to restart nuke talks

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Monday he expects to have “heart-to-heart talks” during his summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in hopes of restarting nuclear talks between Pyongyang and Washington and forging a lasting peace on the divided peninsula.

Moon, who flies to Pyongyang on Tuesday for his third round of meetings with Kim in less than five months, has staked his legacy on improving relations with the North but faces a stiff challenge in trying to persuade the communist state to give up its nuclear weapons.

His office played down expectations for a breakthrough, but Moon appeared optimistic.

“I aim to have lots of heart-to-heart talks with Chairman Kim Jong Un,” Moon was quoted as saying during a meeting with senior advisers on the eve of the summit. “What I want to achieve is peace — irreversible, permanent peace that is not disrupted by international politics.”

Efforts to revive stalled U.S.-North Korean talks on the nuclear issue have risen to the top of the agenda between the two Korean leaders amid fears that continued deadlock may lead to new tensions between the longtime adversaries.

Washington reportedly wants the North to disclose the extent of its nuclear weapons program and insists it will maintain punishing economic sanctions until a deal is reached. Pyongyang says it already has taken important steps and should be rewarded along the way with eased sanctions and a formal declaration ending the 1950-53 war.

Reports citing U.S. intelligence officials and satellite images, meanwhile, have shown continued nuclear activity by the North, raising questions about Kim's sincerity in vowing to give up his arsenal.

Trump canceled a planned trip to North Korea by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo over the summer, citing insufficient progress in the months that followed his own historic June 12 summit with Kim, which was held in Singapore.

Moon said he will try “to find a middle ground” by focusing on easing military tensions and promoting nuclear dialogue between the United States and North Korea.

Earlier Monday, his office acknowledged the difficulties. The presidential chief of staff said Moon planned to meet at least twice with Kim during his three-day trip to the North Korean capital.

“Denuclearization is a pressing issue,” Im Jong-seok told reporters in Seoul. “There are many expectations for great progress on the issue at the summit, but the prospects are very limited, and it's hard to have an optimistic view.”

Moon, 65, a former human rights lawyer, and Kim, believed to be 35, first met on April 27 in the truce village of Panmunjom, which straddles the heavily fortified border that has divided the peninsula since the Korean War ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

He briefly stepped into North Korea during that symbolism-laden meeting, but he will be making his first real trip to the communist state when he flies directly to Pyongyang on Tuesday.

The Korean leaders also met in late May in Panmunjom.

South Korean business leaders including Samsung heir Lee Jae-yong will accompany Moon, underscoring hopes by the two Koreas to resume economic cooperation projects that are stalled because of the U.S.-led sanctions.

Moon and Kim are expected to meet after the president's arrival on Tuesday and then again on Wednesday, according to the chief of staff. Im said South Korea's first lady, Kim Jung-sook, will visit a children's hospital and a music school.

Both Koreas are eager for an end-of-war declaration, which would be a step toward a peace treaty. That has raised concern that the North is trying to drive a wedge in the longtime U.S.-South Korean alliance, which includes the presence of some 28,500 American troops on the peninsula.

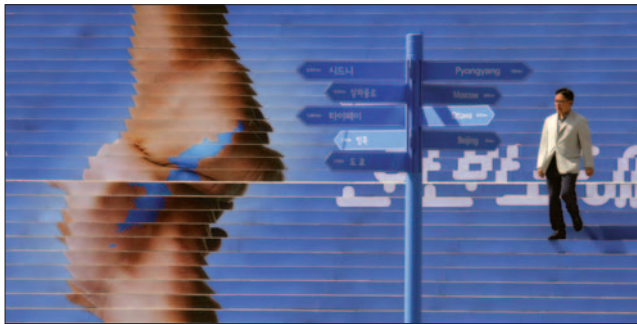
South Korean envoys who met with Kim last month said the North Korean leader wasn't pushing for a U.S. withdrawal.

North Korea has suspended nuclear and missile tests, which were the focal point of tensions that prompted fears of a nuclear war last year. The last one was the firing of an intercontinental ballistic missile in late November. It also moved to destroy its main nuclear testing site and to dismantle a key missile launch site.

But experts have said the moves are likely reversible without international inspections and verification.

Trump, meanwhile, promised Kim unspecified security guarantees and announced that he was suspending joint war games with the South following the Singapore summit.

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Ahn Young-joon/AP

A man in Seoul, South Korea, on Monday passes by an image of two hands shaking to form the shape of the Korean Peninsula to celebrate the upcoming inter-Korean summit.

‘I aim to have lots of heart-to-heart talks with Chairman Kim Jong Un.’

Moon Jae-in

South Korean president

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N. Korea ready to make deals at trade fair

By ERIC TALMADGE
Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea — Vendors selling everything from car batteries to “kangaroo essence” health pills have descended on Pyongyang for an international trade fair.

Though North Korea continues to be one of the most heavily sanctioned countries in the world, this year's trade fair, which opened in the North Korean capital on Monday, includes more than 320 companies and is making something of a comeback, with many Chinese entrepreneurs taking part.

Almost all of the companies with stalls at the fair are from North Korea or China. But several other countries are represented — a Russian medical technology company is selling heart-beat-monitoring wrist watches, for example, and kangaroo capsules, supposedly healthy, are being sold by a New Zealand company.

Businesses from a few more countries, such as Italy and Cuba, are there seeking business opportunities but aren't selling anything.

Benjamin Qi, of Beijing-based Ex-Easy Network and Technology Co. Ltd., said the number of Chinese at the fair this year had doubled or even tripled from the last couple of years.

“Definitely, they are looking for partners who can sell their products. That's the most important because after they have their sales here in North Korea, then they can start making some factories or some other investments,” said Qi, who helped make arrangements for Chinese participants. “But the first step is they should sell their products.”

O Ryong Chol, North Korea's vice minister of external trade, said in an opening address that the political climate on the Korean Peninsula has been changing fundamentally since leader Kim Jong Un met South Korean President Moon Jae-in in April and had a summit with President Donald Trump in June. Moon was due to arrive in Pyongyang on Tuesday for his third summit with Kim.

O said the North remains committed to building up its socialist economy and is ready to actively pursue trade deals with foreign

countries. The trade fair was livelier and better attended than in the past few years, when the North was more actively testing its missiles and nuclear weapons and faced deeper political isolation.

“The DPRK in the future, too, will extend developing external relations with other countries on a higher level on the principle of respect of sovereignty, equality and reciprocity,” he said, using the acronym for North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

North Korea's trade fairs — another one is held in the spring — offer interesting insights into the country's often mysterious economic priorities.

The local products displayed were mostly clothing, traditional medicines, cosmetics, processed foods and beverages. But several of the country's main electronics makers showed off their brands' flat-screen TVs, mobile phones, laptops and tablets.

The Chinese vendors, mostly small or medium-sized businesses, focused on practical, daily life goods.

At one stall, a Chinese sales-



ERIC TALMADGE/AP

North Korean women try to make sales at the 14th Pyongyang Autumn International Trade Fair in Pyongyang, North Korea, on Monday.

man from Dandong demonstrated stick-free frying pans, while a few stalls down a salesman from a Beijing-based company showed North Korean women how easily his irons could smooth wrinkles out of a man's dress shirt.

Qi said the companies se-

lect products that do not violate sanctions.

“China also follows international sanctions,” he said. “So all products that belong to the sanctions list are not allowed to come here. We only bring those products that are allowed.”

BUSINESS/WEATHER



MARK LENNHAN/AP

An issue of Time magazine is displayed on a New York newsstand in November 2017.

Salesforce co-founder buys Time magazine for \$190M

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Time Magazine is being sold by Meredith Corp. to Marc Benioff, a co-founder of Salesforce, and his wife, it was announced Sunday.

Meredith announced that it was selling Time magazine for \$190 million in cash to Benioff, one of four co-founders of Salesforce, a cloud computing pioneer.

Meredith had completed the purchase of Time along with other publications of Time Inc. earlier this year.

The Benioffs are purchasing Time personally, and the transaction is unrelated to Salesforce.com, where Benioff is chairman and co-CEO and co-founder.

The announcement by Meredith said that the Benioffs would not be involved in the day-to-day operations or journalistic decisions at Time. Those decisions will continue to be made by Time's current executive leadership team,

the announcement said.

"We're pleased to have found such passionate buyers in Marc and Lynne Benioff for the Time brand," Meredith president and CEO Tom Hartly said in a statement. "For over 90 years, Time has been at the forefront of the most significant events and impactful stories that shape our global conversation."

Meredith, the publisher of such magazines as People and Better Homes & Gardens, had put four Time Inc. publications up for sale in March. Negotiations for the sale of the three other publications — Fortune, Money and Sports Illustrated — are continuing.

The prospective sale is expected to close within 30 days.

In an interview with the Journal, Benioff said he and his wife were investing "in a company with tremendous impact on the world, one that is also an incredibly strong business. That's what we were looking for when we invest as a family."

US economy is booming but cities' revenue growth slowing

By MARTIN Z. BRAUN
Bloomberg

U.S. cities are seeing the growth of their tax collections slow, suggesting local government gains from the more-than-nine-year economic expansion are diminishing even as they face pressure to spend more on wages, pensions and infrastructure, according to an annual survey by the National League of Cities.

City general fund revenues are projected to stagnate in 2018, compared with increasing 1.25 percent in 2017, as property, sales and income tax collections slow, the group found. The share of cities reporting that they're more able to meet their financial obligations than they were a year ago rose slightly to 73 percent, after slipping to 69 percent last year, the lowest since 2012, when many were still contending with some of the fiscal aftermath of the housing crash and recession.

"Although fiscal health is not yet declining, these conditions echo several cautionary signals from previous economic downturns," according to the report, which is based on results from 341 cities.

The findings are surprising, given the strength of the U.S. economy and the housing market, which provides a big share of cities' tax collections. Consumer confidence is near an 18-year high, and the nation's gross domestic product expanded at its fastest clip in four years during the second quarter.

On Wednesday, the Census Bureau reported median household income rose 1.8 percent in 2017,

when adjusted for inflation.

The biggest drags on municipal finances stem from rising wages and the need to rehabilitate aging infrastructure, 94 percent of officials reported that wages rose, and 86 percent reported the cost of infrastructure increased. Spending growth continues to outpace revenue growth, according to the survey.

Thirty-five percent of respondents said Congress' narrowing of cities' ability to refinance tax-exempt bonds already has had a negative impact, and 61 percent expect it will harm cities' future fiscal health.

Growth in property-tax collections, typically the biggest source of municipal revenue, is anticipated to slow to less than 1 percent in 2018 from 2.6 percent the prior year. The survey projected stagnant sales tax growth, though that may change because of the U.S. Supreme Court decision that expands states' ability to tax online retailers.

The previous inability to collect state and local sales tax on internet retailers that didn't have a fiscal presence in a state cost state and local governments an estimated \$26 billion in foregone tax revenue in 2015, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures and the International Council of Shopping Centers.

With cities loathe to raise property taxes or restrained by law from doing so, the most common action taken to boost city revenue is to increase fees. About two in five finance officials said their cities raised fee levels, while one in five reported increasing the number of fees that are applied

to services.

The National League of Cities survey points up regional and demographic differences affecting the fiscal health of municipalities. Finance officers in southern cities are more likely to report being able to meet fiscal needs than those in larger cities, which have been experiencing faster economic growth and expanding tax bases.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Sept. 18)	\$1.1979
Dollar buys (Sept. 18)	€0.8348
British pound (Sept. 18)	\$1.35
Japanese yen (Sept. 18)	¥109.00
South Korean won (Sept. 18)	₩1,098.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.3155
Canada (Dollar)	1.3015
China (Yuan)	6.8604
Denmark (Krone)	6.3800
Egypt (Pound)	17.9506
Euro	\$1.1694/0.8552
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8462
Hungary (Forint)	277.59
Israel (Shekel)	3.5852
Japan (Yen)	111.98
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3029
Norway (Krone)	8.1773
Philippines (Peso)	54.12
Poland (Zloty)	3.68
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7504
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3716
South Korea (Won)	1,123.88
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9620
Thailand (Baht)	32.58
Turkey (Lira)	6.2949
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.00
Discount rate	2.50
Federals funds market rate	2.50
3-month bill	2.11
30-year bond	3.13

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police: Man used child to steal game prizes

NH SALEM — Police are looking for a man who they say used his toddler to steal prizes out of a vending machine game at a mall in New Hampshire.

Several witnesses recorded video of the crime Friday evening at The Mall at Rockingham Park in Salem.

Police said the man had the small girl climb into the bottom of the Key Master, where prizes are dropped for winners, and reach up and grab various items and hand them to him.

The man, who also had a young boy with him, then left the area with the children and stolen items, police said.

Hundreds of political signs technically illegal

UT SALT LAKE CITY — The political signs sprouting up across the Salt Lake City area on overpasses, pedestrian bridges and highway boundary fences are technically illegal, but the law isn't really enforced.

Utah Department of Transportation spokesman John Gleason told the Salt Lake Tribune that it is illegal to place campaign signs in rights of way without approval from the department. He said the department never approves them.

Gleason said the department's workers have more important things to do than taking down hundreds of illegal signs statewide, but when they do go out and remove some, more tend to show up the next day.

Guide dead after bear attack; hunter hurt

WY JACKSON — Wyoming authorities said a hunting guide was found dead after he and a client were attacked by a bear.

The Jackson Hole News & Guide reported that the body of Mark Uptain, 37, was found Saturday. Teton County spokesman Billy Kirk said the client, Corey Chubon, of Florida, suffered leg, chest and arm injuries, and was flown to a Jackson hospital.

Authorities said Chubon was bowhunting and shot an elk Thursday, but he and Uptain could not find the animal until Friday. They were preparing to pack it up that day when they were charged by two bears.

Kirk said one of the bears attacked Uptain and then Chubon. He said Chubon was able to flee and phone for help.

Mexico remark leads to hate crime charge

LA GONZALES — A south Louisiana man has been booked on hate crime charges after police say he told a woman in a store to "go back to Mexico" and then attacked her parents.

Gonzales police said Robert Ray, 60, of Donaldsonville, approached the woman, 19, and made the comment at a store on Friday. When her mother, Salome Martinez, told Ray the comment

THE CENSUS

1.5K

The approximate number of bats that had infested the third floor of a Florida courthouse. The Ledger in Lakeland reported that although the bats have been removed and the floor cleaned, bat droppings are being blamed for causing breathing problems that made 13 workers ill at the Hardee County Courthouse on Thursday. The workers complained of coughing and scratchy throats. Two people were treated at a hospital and released.



STEPH CHAMBERS, THE PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE/AP

'Bubba' gets a foothold

Mitch Napier is held down by "Bubba the Bulldog" during a Keystone State Wrestling Alliance event on Saturday at the 25th Millvale Days Celebration in Millvale, Pa., a suburb of Pittsburgh.

was "not a nice thing to say," Ray then pushed her to the floor, police said. Police said Ray also hit the woman's father, Alfredo Buitureira, with his fist and a boot when Buitureira intervened. Ray also has been charged with two counts of simple battery and criminal damage to property, police said.

Squirrels chow down on farmers' fruit crops

ME STANDISH — Farmers in New England are getting harassed by a bumper crop of squirrels.

The varmints are chomping their way through apple orchards and pumpkin patches, fattening themselves for winter while destroying the crops with bite marks.

Robert Randall, who has a 60-acre orchard in Standish, Maine, said he's never seen anything like it. He said the onslaught is rendering apples and

pumpkins unsellable.

Kendall Marden, from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, said the explosion in the squirrel population is linked to a bumper crop of acorns and other food last fall.

But as hungry as the squirrels are, it's unlikely they'll inflict serious economic damage. Orchards operators said this year's apple crop looks good.

Police: Teen arrested in flare gun shootings

OH TOLEDO — Police in Ohio said a boy, 17, was arrested in connection with two flare gun shootings that injured two people.

The Toledo Police Department announced the arrest on its Facebook page and Twitter account Friday evening but provided no additional details.

Both victims were shot in the face.

The first shooting happened Sunday. A woman, 36, said six young men jumped into her car at a gas station.

She drove herself to a hospital

where she was treated for severe burns.

Police said the second shooting occurred in a different Toledo neighborhood Tuesday. A boy, 16, told officers he was walking along a street when two young men approached and one of them shot him with a flare gun.

Man accused of fatally stabbing cat is jailed

TX GALVESTON — A Southeast Texas man remains jailed after police allege he threatened to kill his girlfriend, fatally stabbed the family cat and left unguarded in his home an assault-type rifle that was fired by his son, 4.

The Galveston County Daily News reported that Mario Salinas, 27, is facing several charges, including cruelty to a nonlivestock animal and terroristic threat to a family member.

According to documents, Salinas' girlfriend called police Sept. 10, saying he had threatened to kill her.

Police went to the home after a report of a gunshot. Salinas told

officers his son had accidentally shot the family cat, Snowflake. But a family friend told police Salinas had stabbed the pet.

Police said the boy accidentally fired the weapon after Salinas had left it on a bed along with others.

Schools to reward attendance with money

MO KANSAS CITY — A Kansas City-area school district plans to use money as an incentive to get students to attend class every day.

Students at Hickman Mills School District's four secondary schools will have the chance to win \$100 each month if they have perfect attendance, The Kansas City Star reported.

Ruskin High, the Freshman Center, Smith-Hale Middle School and the Crittenton Center students with perfect attendance each week will be entered into a monthly drawing. Each school will then draw a winner's name at the end of the month.

From wire reports

FACES



Anna Kendrick's latest movie role requires drama, comedy expertise

LONGGATE/AP

Anna Kendrick co-stars with Blake Lively (not shown) in the thriller "A Simple Favor."

By SONAIA KELLEY
Los Angeles Times

"A Simple Favor" is hard to categorize. One part suburban noir, one part dramatic thriller, the film follows the evolution of the unlikely of friendships before shifting into a murder-mystery whodunit. Somehow, it also manages to be funny.

"It's not a joke-fest, this movie, but it's behaviorally very funny," said director Paul Feig, known for directing comedy blockbusters including "Bridesmaids" and "Spy." "For me, all the humor comes from the extreme emotions or extreme personality traits of the characters and the situation they're in."

In "A Simple Favor," now playing in wide release, Anna Kendrick stars as Stephanie, a widowed suburban mommy blogger who stumbles into a friendship with Emily (Blake Lively), a glamorous working mom who regularly picks up her son from elementary school while decked out in couture. The women couldn't be more different, but the friendship is believable: Each has a trait the other lacks ... and can exploit.

"It's a heightened relationship," said Kendrick. "There's something about having a person in your life who, on paper, is just so different from you. You can learn so much from each other and help each other out because you have such different world views."

The story, based on a novel by Darcey Bell, had been floating around Hollywood. After a brief bidding war, 20th Century Fox won the rights to the book in January 2016.

"They said, 'It's a thriller, but it's crazy, but it seems funny, but it's also really dark. You do comedy; maybe you can figure this out,'" Feig remembered. "I read it and I was like, 'I have to direct this.'"

Kendrick's preparation for playing Stephanie, a picture-perfect mom with a fair share of skeletons in her closet, included going "down a rabbit hole" of mommy blogs.

"The ones that I liked the most were really raw and makeshift, someone propping their phone up against the side of the table and just being really

"She's hiding so much and she's repressing so much. It's one of those things where, you've been through some trauma and you feel like as long as you just keep things perfectly in order ... everything will be fine and you don't have to deal with the fact that you're also a person that has this history that's kind of dark."

Anna Kendrick
on Stephanie, her character in "A Simple Favor"

honest about maybe the guilt they feel as a mom and the ways they're stressed," she said. "But the ones that were popular were the ones that were very polished and very well-lit — the person had designed a background that they always filmed against — and there was almost something really sinister about them."

"Paul had this idea for Stephanie to talk directly to (the camera) to address the moms that are watching, which is just so overproduced and so alienating. But it speaks to how tightly wound she is, because she's hiding so much and she's repressing so much. It's one of those things where, you've been through some trauma and you feel like as long as you just keep everything perfectly in order ... everything will be fine and you don't have to deal with the fact that you're also a person that has this history that's kind of dark."

Though making the transition from drama to comedy from scene to scene proved challenging, both the star and the director agreed that it was a welcome departure from the demands of a straight comedy.

"It was really fun knowing that the pressure to make it a comedy wasn't there," she said. "And that meant I felt even more free to just play around and not be feeling like, 'Well, I haven't said a joke in three lines so I better do something funny.'"

"Audiences have become slightly hostile toward straight-up comedy, I've found," Feig agreed. "At least when one of my movies is a straight-up comedy, the internet is always like, 'Well, clearly all the funniest jokes are in the trailer!'"

"That's the classic, isn't it?" said Kendrick. "It's like 'Oh, all the best bits are probably in the trailer.' Blake was saying that a lot of her friends are like, 'Well, I already know what happens. This trailer gives everything away!'"

"I was like, 'The trailer gives nothing away.'"

"We structured it actually so it made you think you know the story, but you're so wrong," said Feig. "I love that."



Soon-Yi Previn defends husband Woody Allen

Associated Press

Soon-Yi Previn, the wife of Woody Allen and the estranged adopted daughter of Mia Farrow, has spoken publicly about her turbulent life for the first time in decades and is defending her husband from what she contends is unfair treatment in the #MeToo era.

New York magazine posted on its website Sunday night an in-depth article about Previn in which she talks of a troubled relationship with her mother and tells how she wound up getting into a relationship in 1992 with Allen, who was Farrow's boyfriend at the time.

The 47-year-old says she and her mother clashed soon after Farrow adopted her and that her mother many times treated her like a maid. She denies being manipulated into a relationship by Allen.

Previn tells the magazine that she decided to speak out now because Dylan Farrow, who is an adopted daughter of Allen, is, in her view, unfairly accusing her husband of sexual abusing her when she was a child.

"I was never interested in writing a 'Mommie Dearest,' getting even with Mia — none of that," Previn told the magazine. "But what's happened to Woody is so upsetting, so unjust. (Mia) has taken advantage of the #MeToo movement and paraded Dylan as a victim. And a whole new generation is hearing about it when they should't."

In separate statements posted on Twitter, Dylan Farrow and Ronan Farrow say their mother is a good parent and that the New York magazine article is inaccurate and unfair.

Audience award goes to 'Green Book' in Toronto

Peter Farrelly's crowd-pleasing Deep South road trip movie "Green Book" won the Toronto International Film Festival's audience award on Sunday.

Toronto's People's Choice Award often corresponds with awards-season success. In the past decade, every Toronto People's Choice winner has scored a best-picture nomination at the Academy Awards. "Green Book" stars Mahershala Ali as a classical pianist on a concert tour of the Deep South in the 1960s. Viggo Mortensen plays the Italian-American bouncer hired to drive him while relying on "The Green Book," the guide for African-American-friendly hotels and restaurants.

The first runner-up for Toronto's top prize was Barry Jenkins' James Baldwin adaptation "If Beale Street Could Talk." The second runner-up was Alfonso Cuarón's black-and-white neo-realist drama "Roma."

Failing to place in the top three, to the surprise of many, was Bradley Cooper's "A Star Is Born." His remake of the Hollywood classic, starring Lady Gaga, had been widely considered the audience-award front-runner in Toronto.

Underwood reveals she had 3 miscarriages

Carrie Underwood says she turned to God after experiencing three miscarriages in two years.

The 35-year-old country singer and former "American Idol" champion told "CBS Sunday Morning" she got pregnant in early 2017 and it "didn't work out." She had a second miscarriage later that year and a third in 2018.

Underwood says she was afraid to be angry because she has an incredible husband, hockey player Mike Fisher, and an incredible son, 3-year-old Isaiah.

She says she got mad when she thought she might be suffering a fourth miscarriage and she "told God how I felt." She went to the doctor and was told everything was fine. Underwood says God heard her.

The pregnant singer said she'll go on tour this spring, hopefully with her new baby. She says "things are looking better."

'Apprentice' producer, Tom Arnold scuffle

A scuffle between Tom Arnold and a producer of "The Apprentice" has led to an exchange on social media.

Arnold tweeted that producer Mark Burnett choked him at a pre-Emmys party Sunday in Los Angeles. Burnett's wife, actress Roma Downey, tweeted that Arnold "tried to ambush" the couple, and she posted a photo of what she says is her bruised hand.

Arnold's lawyer, Marty Singer, told The Hollywood Reporter that Burnett "attacked" Arnold.

Arnold's new show, "The Hunt for the Trump Tapes," is set to debut Tuesday. The show follows Ars's attempts to find tapes that show Donald Trump expressing bigoted views on the set of "The Apprentice," which Burnett produces.

Other news

■ **"The Predator"** is at the top of the food chain in its first weekend in theaters. The film, made for \$88 million, earned an estimated \$24 million in North America. The third weekend installment of the 30-year-old franchise also earned \$30.7 million overseas, bringing the global total to \$54.7 million.

■ **Chrissy Teigen**, who says people have been mispronouncing her last name for years, took to social media Sunday to say it's not Teigen (TEE-gihn), but Teigen (TY-gihn).

■ **Peter Donat**, the Canadian actor who played Agent Fox Mulder's father in "The X-Files" and had roles in TV shows, films and onstage, has died. He was 90.

■ **Actress and soprano Norma Maczka**, a three-time Tony Award nominee known for powerhouse Broadway performances in "Ragtime," "Passion" and "Kiss Me, Kate," has died following a three-year battle with ovarian cancer. She was 57.

SHIFTING GEARS



PHOTOS BY MARK PHELAN, DETROIT FREE PRESS/TNS

Get your Kicks

This Nissan could change your mind about small cars

By MARK PHELAN
Detroit Free Press

Not an SUV, but determinedly SUV-adjacent, the 2018 Nissan Kicks is a testament to the elasticity of consumer opinion and a preview of the small car of the future.

The Kicks is most accurately described as a compact station wagon, but clever design and engineering imbue it with the visual and practical appeal that have made SUVs the dominant class of vehicles in the United States.

The Kicks also demonstrates General Motors and Toyota's fundamental misreading of the market when they killed the Pontiac Vibe and Toyota Matrix, which helped create the market for affordable little SUVs. Toyota and GM dropped the Matrix and Vibe during the Great Recession and have been trying to recreate the cars' appeal ever since.

To its credit, GM more or less replaced the Vibe with the Chevy Trax and Buick Encore subcompact SUVs, both of which sell for prices comfortably above what Pontiac charged for Vibes.

That's what fuels automakers' change of emphasis from sedans to SUVs: higher transaction prices.

That's a plus for automakers, but not buyers, particularly many who bought compact and subcompact cars. Nissan hopes to address that with the Kicks, which looks like an SUV but has prices starting \$50 below a 2018 Honda Civic compact sedan.

Kicks prices start at \$17,990. All Kicks models have front-wheel drive, a continuously variable transmission and 125-horsepower naturally aspirated 1.6-liter

four-cylinder engine.

The Kicks offers two higher trim levels, the \$16,960 SV and \$20,290 SR.

I tested a Kicks SR with features including automatic emergency braking, blind spot alert, Bose audio, Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, Bluetooth, voice recognition, 7.0-inch touch screen, heated front seats, LED low beams, remote start, 17-inch aluminum wheels, striking two-tone paint with

a glossy black roof and pillars over a metallic orange body. It's a well-equipped, attractive vehicle for its \$22,050 sticker price. All prices exclude destination charges.

Outstanding features

The Kicks looks like a small SUV, with a higher roof and more ground clearance than small sedans and hatchbacks.

That height also translates into good visibility and easy entry and exit compared with that of a lower slung car.

The optional two-tone paint gives the Kicks upscale looks for an extra \$545 on the SR package.

There's plenty of head and leg room in both rows of seats and plenty of shoulder room for two. Automatic emergency braking, front seat side air bags and curtain air bags are standard, as are backup cameras with a bird's-eye view. Blind spot and rear cross traffic alerts are standard on all models but the base.

The standard touch screen, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto provide easy access to your smartphone's navigation and music. That's better than some luxury vehicles I've tested that cost more than twice as much as the Kicks I tested.

Fuel economy, power

Most new small cars and utilities use a little turbocharged engine to combine decent fuel economy and performance. The Kicks makes do with a less expensive normally aspirated 1.6-liter four-cylinder that generates 125 horsepower and 115 pound-feet of torque. That's less power than the competitors I've named, but acceleration is

acceptable around town. The Kicks labors a bit passing on the highway.

The continually variable transmission is smooth and quiet, even under strong acceleration.

The downside

The Kicks' looks, safety features and smartphone integration recall more expensive vehicles, but the realities of an entry-level budget enforce themselves on the interior materials. My test car had an attractive soft pad in the middle of the dashboard that looked like leather and had contrasting stitching, but nearly all other surfaces on the doors and dash are hard plastic.

The rear seats fold, but not quite flat. That reduces cargo space significantly. The front seat has a single arm rest built into the side of the driver's seat, but no center console with storage and a wider arm rest. There are a couple of cup holders, small map pockets and a bin with barely enough room for a standard iPhone 8, but interior storage is not a strength.

The steering is light and a bit loose. It's not a problem, but a reminder that the Kicks' chassis was designed and specced with affordability in mind rather than sporty driving.

Verdict

The Kicks is one of the most pleasant surprises of the year. Its combination of classy looks, ride height, visibility and features deserve a look from anybody looking for a good small vehicle at an appealing price.

2018 Nissan Kicks SR



The 2018 Nissan Kicks SR offers many driver assistance features.

Highs: Looks; price; fuel economy; room; safety features; audio system

Lows: Rear seats don't fold flat; interior materials; steering feel

Vehicle type: Compact utility wagon

Base price: \$17,990

Price as tested: \$22,050 (excluding destination charge)

Powertrain: 1.6-liter four-cylinder

Power/torque: 125 horsepower/115

foot-pounds

EPA fuel economy rating: 31 mpg city/36 highway/33 combined

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OPINION

4-year colleges not doing the job for all

By JEFFREY J. SELINGO
Special To The Washington Post

A fundamental transformation is underway in how we access education throughout our lives. Rather than plug into the formal structures of traditional colleges and universities when we need new skills, a growing number of us are navigating a "shadow learning economy" from a new set of providers offering education in short spurts, either online or in face-to-face classes. Think about what we do when we don't know how to perform an operation in Excel or need to learn a skill to get a promotion at work — we turn to YouTube or take a free online course offered by edX or Coursera.

In many ways, this behavior in education mimics that of the broader economy, with consumers increasingly seeking alternatives to legacy businesses — take Uber and Airbnb as examples of this phenomenon. In education, alternative learning providers include the likes of Launch Academy, General Assembly and Revature — hardly household names, but dozens of such organizations have already attracted millions of students.

For now, these ventures operate on the periphery of higher education. Their impact on colleges and universities, if any, has probably been in graduate education, in which enrollment has been flat or declining in many professional fields as prospective students turn to these alternative providers. But a fascinating new book, "A New U: Past, Present & Future of the Alternative College," argues that many of these ventures are threats to expensive, and mostly second-tier, undergraduate education. And it questions "the conventional wisdom that college is the only pathway to a good first job."

The book's author, Ryan Craig, is a founder of University Ventures, an investment fund that backs education companies focused on helping students get training for jobs. When you first pick up the book, you might think it's nothing more than an

advertisement for some of his companies.

But Craig is unlike many of the entrepreneurs I have met working in the higher education sphere who have little passion for its mission and bail as soon as they realize they can make more money in another industry. Craig has academia in his blood. His mother spent her career as a faculty member teaching sociology. Early in his own career, Craig was a vice president of Edtech, a short-lived online education effort operated by Columbia University that tried to sell web-based courses and seminars to the public.

In the book, Craig argues that an "employment imperative" is driving the new learning economy and changes in higher education. In survey after survey, it's clear that students enroll in college to get a job. The problem is — as Craig writes and I pointed out in a recent column — colleges are not delivering on this promise.

If universities "paid attention to the employment imperative, they'd be busy aligning degree programs, courses, and curricula to actual entry level positions and also significantly increasing investment in career services," Craig writes. But career services offices are often underfunded, isolated and led by people who never worked outside of higher education. So the job of getting students a job usually falls to faculty members who are not given incentives or evaluated on that front, Craig says.

A college degree hasn't been considered an admission ticket to enter a profession in the way it is today. Most people entered careers through apprenticeships, studying with a master teacher and practicing skills. One of Craig's most compelling arguments is that the United States needs more pathways to fulfilling careers than the one that goes solely through college, and mostly four-year schools.

Indeed, one of those new pathways might be through two-year colleges. Craig writes that community colleges should shed their "academic paradigm" because most students who go to two-year schools intend

to transfer to a four-year college but never do. Instead, community colleges should become what Craig calls "placement colleges" that provide short-term training to help students get their first jobs.

Higher education seen only through this lens of job training, of course, disturbs many career academics and others who argue that colleges have a much broader mission to prepare citizens for a global world and lifelong learning. While Craig focuses mostly on the career function of higher education in the book, he begins each chapter with stories from his own undergraduate experience at Yale University and what might be lost with faster and cheaper alternatives — the exploration, the serendipity and the maturation of teenagers.

Craig is not from the Peter Thiel camp of Silicon Valley technologists who advocate skipping college altogether. Early in the book, he offers a simple chart for readers to determine whether his faster and cheaper alternatives are better for them than traditional higher education. I'm more skeptical than Ryan that these ventures will become the new gateway to the bachelor's degree, which, despite the complaints of employers, is still widely used as a sorting mechanism in the hiring process.

Even so, Craig makes a compelling argument about the second keyword in his subtitle: cheaper. College degrees have put a tremendous debt burden on recent graduates. The generation of undergraduates in college now, Generation Z, is more skeptical about taking on large amounts of debt to pay for a degree. They don't want to turn out like their millennial counterparts.

The question is whether their anxiety about debt will drive them to consider alternatives. Craig thinks the answer is a resounding yes.

Jeffrey J. Selingo is the author of "There Is Life After College," about how today's graduates launch into their careers. He formerly edited the Chronicle of Higher Education, a professor of practice at Arizona State University, a trustee of Itasca College and a visiting scholar at Georgia Tech's Center for 21st Century Universities.

Manafort with Mueller: Too little, too late?

By DEANNA PAUL
The Washington Post

Three days before the Washington-based trial against Paul Manafort was set to begin, special counsel Robert Mueller raised eyebrows in the legal community when his office filed a new charging document. Many began to wonder whether an announcement about a plea agreement with Manafort, President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman, was coming down the pipeline.

One did.
I'm a former assistant district attorney, and even after news of the plea broke on Friday, I didn't think Manafort stood to gain much from a cooperation deal.

I still don't. What's clear, though, is that Manafort was out of cards to play.

Unlike a former criminal charged former Trump aides, Manafort's problem was that he was facing a functional life sentence, even before the trial in Washington. After battling the federal government for a year, Manafort was convicted in the Eastern District of Virginia last month on eight of 18 federal crimes, including filing false tax returns, bank fraud and failing to disclose an interest in a foreign bank account. The jurors hung on the other 10 counts, though the government still had the option to retry them.

Under federal sentencing guidelines, a prison term is determined by a defendant's criminal history and his conduct during

the charged crime.

That calculation did not work out well for Manafort, handing him a particularly onerous sentence. In addition to a court-imposed fine, according to court documents, the range for Manafort was 210 to 262 months imprisonment, or 17 to 20 years.

That was just for the Virginia conviction. For the 69-year-old Manafort, a prison sentence of 10 years or more could very well mean spending the rest of his life in prison.

What he wanted was some relief from his sentence. With few options, cutting a deal with Mueller was the best guarantee to limit the prison term.

On Friday, he pleaded guilty to two federal charges — conspiracy to defraud the United States and conspiracy to obstruct justice, encompassing a range of crimes from money laundering and tax fraud to lying to the Justice Department. One conspiracy count covered the time he worked for the Trump campaign.

With the plea, he avoided the D.C.-based trial, which he would have dealt with several federal crimes, including an obstruction of justice charge added to a new indictment in June, after he allegedly contacted two potential witnesses.

It also included admissions to charges that the Virginia jury hung on, though Friday's cooperation deal agreed to dismiss them. Manafort's plea is somewhat unusual. Although I worked at the state level,

there are some universal principles at work when signing up cooperators and several familiar factors.

The plea agreement, which laid out his crimes for the public in excruciating detail, was fairly standard; cooperation is usually all or nothing, and it's typical to say a cooperator will be "fully cooperating."

Manafort's hope for leniency at sentencing is two-pronged — aimed both at Mueller and the sentencing judge.

There are times where it makes sense for a prosecutor to cooperate with a plea-reliant defendant after a trial conviction. The offices that I worked at occasionally took the same view, too.

Mueller holds the keys. Manafort will almost certainly go to prison, notwithstanding the agreement, and only Mueller can bring the sentencing judge's attention to Manafort's efficacy or value. If Mueller doesn't make the motion, the judge cannot consider it.

The caveat, though, is that a federal judge is never locked in. He merely takes Mueller's recommendation into account.

The best cooperation happens early on, even on day one — a la Michael Flynn or Michael Cohen. Manafort's post-conviction cooperation may not be as effective. Even if he is truly extraordinary, he may still have a good bit of time to serve.

Deanna Paul covers national and breaking news for The Washington Post. Before joining The Post, she spent six years as a New York City prosecutor.

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



The Dome of Shame

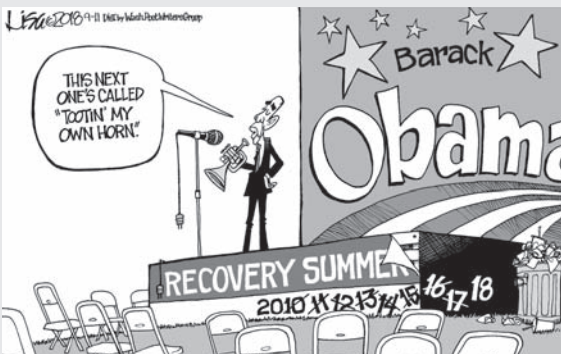
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Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
			18					19	20			
21	22	23					24					
25					26	27				28	29	
30					31					32		
33			34							35		
		36						37				
38	39						40	41				
42					43	44				45	46	47
48					49					50		
51					52					53		

ACROSS

- 1 Use a phone
- 5 "Dragnet" org.
- 9 Started
- 12 Writer James
- 13 "Garfield" dog
- 14 Spanish gold
- 15 Seven weeks after Easter
- 17 Texas tea
- 18 Med. plan options
- 19 Painter's stand
- 21 Roman robes
- 24 Initial chip
- 25 Elliptical
- 26 Rocker Elvis
- 30 Shriner's chapeau
- 31 Feel
- 32 Corn serving
- 33 Price per can, say
- 35 Hay bundle
- 36 Meadows
- 37 Parlor pieces
- 38 Grinding tooth
- 40 Vicinity
- 42 Parisian pal
- 43 Central American nation
- 48 Earth (Prof.)
- 49 Author Wiesel
- 50 Campus digs
- 51 Hostel

DOWN

- 1 Upper limit
- 2 Get older
- 3 Cariou of "Blue Bloods"
- 4 Deadly
- 5 Crazy
- 6 Big fusses
- 7 Math ratios
- 8 Cold War thaw
- 9 Type of binder
- 10 Buffalo's county
- 11 Barbie, e.g.
- 16 Type measures
- 20 Consumed
- 21 Bean curd
- 22 Pizza cooker
- 52 Umps
- 53 Use scissors
- 23 Ginormous amount
- 24 Admin. aide
- 26 Corp. kingly
- 27 Clip- (some ties)
- 28 Chorus syllables
- 29 Raw minerals
- 31 Not as prevalent
- 34 Earl Grey, for one
- 35 Gets on a train
- 37 Salty expanse
- 38 Crêche trio
- 39 Portent
- 40 "Dream on!"
- 41 Numbered rds.
- 44 World Cup cheer
- 45 Charged bit
- 46 Dernier —
- 47 Music booster

Answer to Previous Puzzle

O	M	A	R	A	P	T	C	R	O	W			
H	O	N	E	Y	D	E	W	R	O	V	E		
S	A	N	D	I	E	G	O	I	P	A	D		
				A	P	E		C	A	M	E	L	S
D	A	R	N	S		D	E	L	E				
E	D	I	T		S	A	N	D	A	L	S		
N	O	G		A	N	I	T	A		E	A	T	
S	A	N	D	E	R	S		A	S	T	A		
				A	D	A	Y		U	N	S	E	R
N	O	R	I	S	K		A	R	S				
U	R	A	L		S	A	N	D	W	I	C	H	
B	A	R	E		I	N	N	U	E	N	D	O	
S	L	E	D		N	E	O		R	A	I	N	

9-18

CRYPTOQUIP

SRQ WKS DS URDACBOBRN OL

BTOW NKUC TKW AQMMCF KL

COVTBT RE K DOMC KTCKF RE

DC? LRB EQNMRLV!

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FUZZY, BUZZING INSECTS THAT HAVE EVOLVED TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY MODEST CREATURES: HUMBLE-BEES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals L


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Announcements 040

SCAM FADS

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classified advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam fads are:

- Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.

- People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

Automotive 140**SELLER BEWARE**

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

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Landstuhl American Dentistry is looking for a full-time Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH). Competitive salary and vacation package! Must hold a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) license and X-ray Certification. Available to start a new position immediately. Please send your resume to: manager@american.dentistry.de

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SPORTS BRIEFS/AUTO RACING

Wade to keep playing, will return to Heat

MIAMI — Retirement can wait at least one more year for Dwyane Wade.

Wade is coming back to the Miami Heat, announcing Sunday that he's returning for a 16th and final NBA season. He basically spent the entirety of the last four months weighing his options, and retirement was an extremely real possibility in his mind.

Instead, he'll be back in Miami, as the Heat desperately hoped. He's expected to sign a \$2.4 million, one-year deal later this week.

"I've always did things my way," Wade said in an emotional social-media video that he taped Sunday afternoon and released in the evening. "Whether they've good or whether they've been bad, I got here because I've done things the way I feel is right for me and right for my family. And what I feel is right. ... I feel it's right to ask you guys to join me for one last dance, for one last season."

Wade is Miami's career leader in points, assists, steals and games played. Miami has signed 19 players for camp, one shy of the maximum preseason allotment, and it was never a question why they kept that last spot open.

Wentz cleared, will start this week for Eagles

PHILADELPHIA — He's back. Carson Wentz has been cleared to return and is slated to start for the Philadelphia Eagles against Indianapolis on Sunday.

"I was impressed with how well he attacked his rehab throughout the offseason," coach Doug Pederson said Monday. "He's done everything we've asked him to do and he's ready to go."

Wentz tore his left ACL and LCL on Dec. 10, 2017 in a game against the Los Angeles Rams and had surgery three days later. Backup quarterback Nick Foles led the Eagles to their first NFL title since 1960 and was Super Bowl MVP in the 41-33 victory over New England.

Wentz set a single-season franchise record with 33 touchdown passes last season.

Pederson doesn't expect him to pick up where he left off immediately.

"It's got to take some time to get in the rhythm and flow of the game," Pederson said.

Sapporo ends bid for 2026 Winter Olympics

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — The Japanese city of Sapporo has dropped its bid to host the 2026 Winter Olympics following a recent earthquake.

After meeting with Sapporo representatives, the International Olympic Committee said Monday the city, which became the first in Asia to bid to host the Olympics, "will now focus on a bid for the 2030 Games."

Japanese officials have said 41 people were killed when an earthquake hit the northern island of Hokkaido, where Sapporo is located, on Sept. 6. Even before the earthquake, Sapporo officials had said they might prefer to focus on 2030.

Keselowski wins playoff opener

Penske driver continues late-season surge with third straight victory

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Brad Keselowski nailed the final restart and roared away from the field in the scorching Vegas heat.

With another huge performance in his late-season surge, Keselowski finished up front again — and he's got NASCAR's Big Three drivers looking over their shoulders.

Keselowski raced to his third consecutive Cup series victory Sunday, opening the playoffs by persevering through a wreck-filled afternoon and taking charge of overtime.

He also secured team owner Roger Penske's 500th victory across all competitions with his resourceful performance amid 99-degree conditions and constant stop-and-start late drama of a race featuring 12 cautions and several wrecks.

"I didn't think it was ever going to end," Keselowski said after his 27th career victory and third in Las Vegas. "I was worried about running out of gas there at the end."

Keselowski had plenty of worries with just two laps to go while he sat in his car and waited for the cleanup of Michael McDowell's wreck with Kurt Busch. But after the red-flag stop ended, nobody could keep up with his Team Penske Ford.

The victory extended an extraordinary late-season run for Keselowski, who won at Darlington and the Brickyard in consecutive weeks before Vegas. Keselowski credited his pit crew's efficiency for the latest win in his improbable surge, which has added some intrigue to a NASCAR



ISAAC BREKKE/NAP

Brad Keselowski, right, has a slim lead on Kyle Larson during Sunday's NASCAR Cup Series race in Las Vegas. Keselowski won his third straight race, and Larson was second.

CAR season largely dominated by the Big Three of Truex, Harvick and Kyle Busch.

"We have not been the best car the last three weeks," Keselowski said. "We put everything together when it counted, and we kind of stole it today. Same scenario the last two weeks. ... I feel like we stole the last three races. We're not complaining, but we still have a lot of work to do to go out there and win heads-up without those issues."

Penske was not in attendance for his landmark victory at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, instead watching from Sonoma at the IndyCar season finale. He formed Team Penske in 1966, and it has fielded 50 winning drivers across

14 race series during the ensuing 52 years.

The owner pumped his fist on the timing stand in Sonoma after Keselowski won.

"We did it, boss!" Keselowski shouted. "That's quite a number, right? It's really great to be a part of that, and to get the last ones to get us there, that's pretty great."

Kyle Larson was second, and defending Cup champion Martin Truex Jr. came in third. Keselowski's rivals are very aware of his surge against stiff odds.

"Brad clearly found the horse-shoe," Truex said. "Three races in a row he's won, (and) he has not had the best car. ... He hasn't led the most laps in any of those races, and he showed up at the

end with good pit stops and good short-run speed. I think clearly, it's pretty obvious how it worked out. He's hot right now. He's on a streak. That's the way it goes. We finished third with the best car."

Eight of the 16 playoff drivers had various problems during the race, which had six cautions in the final 60 laps alone. Four playoff drivers failed to finish — including co-leader Kevin Harvick, who wrecked with 120 laps to go when he blew his right front tire.

Kyle Busch finished seventh in Vegas even after clipping the wall and plowing through the infield grass with 35 laps to go.

Truex moved into the overall points lead over Busch and Keselowski, who leapfrogged Harvick.

Dixon adds fifth IndyCar championship

By JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

SONOMA, Calif. — Scott Dixon was fully reclined, quietly watching NASCAR on television with friends, as the clock inched toward the IndyCar season finale. A fifth championship was one steady Sunday drive away.

Dixon was the least stressed. Dixon needed only an uneventful Sunday at Sonoma Raceway to win the championship and sealed it by finishing second, the same place he started, behind Ryan Hunter-Reay. The fifth title moved him into second in IndyCar history, two behind A.J. Foyt.

"I can't believe this is actually happening," Dixon said. "You always doubt these situations and think they are never going to happen. It's all about the people and I'm the lucky one that gets to take it across the line."

The 38-year-old New Zealander also won titles in 2003, 2008, 2013 and 2015, all with Chip Gan-

nassi Racing. He's the longest tenured driver in Ganassi history and helped the team owner cap a strong organizational weekend in which Ross Chastain won NASCAR's Xfinity Series race, Kyle Larson finished second in NASCAR's opening playoff race and Dixon gave him a 12th IndyCar championship.

"What an incredible ride it's been with this guy," said Ganassi, who celebrated the title the same way he did in 2015, by diving from the championship stage into the crowd assembled below.

Dixon's task was eased when challenger Alexander Rossi hit teammate Marco Andretti seconds after the start and broke his front wing. Rossi had to pit for a new part, dropped to last in the field, and the championship was pretty much decided.

Dixon held a 29-point lead over Rossi at the start of the day, and even though the race was worth double points, Rossi needed to be perfect to catch "The Iceman."

Dixon's final points margin was 57 points over Rossi, who rallied to finish seventh. Rossi ended his third season in IndyCar second in the standings.

"It was going to be a tough day to beat Scott anyway," Rossi said. "It's unfortunate to go out like that. I wish I could replay that a million more times. We have to look at 2018 and be pretty happy with it even though we go away second and the first loser."

As relaxed as Dixon appeared to be all day, he admitted after the race he didn't let up in the race car after Rossi's mishap. The title wasn't secure, he said, until he made it through the final round of pit stops cleanly.

"You just never know, anything can happen," Dixon said. "We had a lot of grit. Rossi did a hell of a job, he's been pushing so hard this year and he's going to be a star."

Hunter-Reay won for the 18th time and second this season.

"To end this way is unreal,"

said Hunter-Reay, who dedicated the win to injured IndyCar driver Robert Wickens. "We wish he was here, he would have made my life a lot more difficult on the track today."

Hunter-Reay also praised Dixon as the greatest driver of this IndyCar generation.

"It's unthinkable what he's accomplished," Hunter-Reay said. "To share the track with him is awesome and to beat him is, too."

Will Power and Simon Pagenaud finished third and fourth for Team Penske, which picked up its 500th organizational win earlier Sunday when Brad Keselowski won NASCAR's opening playoff race in Las Vegas. Roger Penske watched those closing laps from atop Power's timing stand as the end of NASCAR overlapped the start of IndyCar. Penske pumped his fist in the air several times after the Keselowski win.

Power's finish gave the Indianapolis 500 winner third in the championship standings.

Roundup

Associated Press

Cardinals reliever Bud Norris



"I thought that Wainwright was really good tonight," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "When any pitcher can throw his breaking ball at any point in time to get us — we are a fastball hitting team — he was doing it. He was spiking it and it had good bite and the fastball in on the left and

"I was just trying to put the ball in play and the last couple

Pirates 3, Brewers 2: Jesus Aguilar and Domingo Santana homered on consecutive pitches from Felipe Vazquez to begin the ninth, but host Milwaukee fell

Twins 9, Royals 6: Tyler Austin hit one of visiting Minnesota's four home runs and made a spectacular catch while flipping into the dugout down the first-base line as Minnesota avoided a four-game sweep.

[illegible]

NFL

American Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	2	0	0	1.000	47	32
New England	1	1	0	.500	47	37
N.Y. Jets	1	1	0	.500	60	60
Buffalo	0	0	0	.000	23	78
Jacksonville	2	0	0	1.000	51	35
Tenno	1	0	0	1.000	40	44
Indianapolis	1	1	0	.500	47	47
Houston	0	0	0	.000	37	47
Cincinnati	2	0	0	1.000	68	46
Baltimore	1	1	0	.500	70	37
Cleveland	0	1	1	.250	39	42
Pittsburgh	0	1	0	.250	58	63
Kansas City	2	0	0	1.000	80	65
Denver	1	0	0	1.000	47	43
L.A. Chargers	1	1	0	.500	59	58
Oakland	0	2	0	.000	32	53

National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	1	1	0	.500	28	29
Washington	1	1	0	.500	33	42
Philadelphia	1	1	0	.500	39	42
N.Y. Giants	0	1	0	.250	28	40
Tampa Bay	2	0	0	1.000	75	61
Atlanta	1	1	0	.500	63	42
Carolina	1	1	0	.500	40	39
New Orleans	1	1	0	.500	61	66
Green Bay	1	0	1	.750	53	52
Minnesota	0	1	1	.250	33	45
Chicago	0	1	0	.250	23	48
Detroit	0	1	0	.250	44	74
L.A. Rams	2	0	0	1.000	67	17
Seattle	0	1	0	.250	46	51
Arizona	0	1	0	.250	6	58

Thursday's game
Cincinnati 34, Baltimore 3

Sunday's game
Indianapolis 21, Washington 9
New Orleans 21, Cleveland 18
Tennessee 20, Houston 17
Miami 20, N.Y. Jets 12
L.A. Chargers 31, Buffalo 20
Atlanta 24, Carolina 24
Tampa Bay 27, Philadelphia 21
Kansas City 42, Pittsburgh 3
Green Bay 20, Minnesota 25, OT
L.A. Rams 34, Arizona 0
San Francisco 30, Detroit 27
Jacksonville 31, New England 20
Denver 20, Oakland 19
Dallas 20, N.Y. Giants 13

Monday's game
Seattle at Chicago

Thursday, Sept. 20
N.Y. Jets at Cleveland

Sunday, Sept. 23
New Orleans at Atlanta
Buffalo at Minnesota
Denver at Baltimore
Indianapolis at Philadelphia
Cincinnati at Carolina
San Francisco at Kansas City
Green Bay at Washington
Oakland at Miami
N.Y. Giants at Houston
Tennessee at Jacksonville
L.A. Chargers at L.A. Rams
Chicago at Arizona
Dallas at Seattle
New England at Detroit

Monday, Sept. 24
Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay

Dolphins sitting atop AFC East with 2-0 start

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Sure, it's just two games in and early overreactions can look silly. But the Miami Dolphins are 2-0 for the first time since 2013 and sitting in first place in the AFC East.

It's a promising start for a squad that had plenty of questions entering the season. "What we're doing out there is close to what we're looking to do," coach Adam Gase said. "We just have to do a few things better."

Ryan Tannehill threw two touchdown passes, Kenyan Drake ran for a score and the Dolphins took advantage of several mistakes by Sam Darnold and the New York Jets for a 20-12 victory Sunday that kept Miami undefeated.

Dolphins 20, Jets 12

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	7	13	0	0-20		
New York	0	0	6	6-12		

Mia—Drake 6 run (Sanders kick), 11:2.
Second Quarter
Mia—Wilson 29 pass from Tannehill (Sanders kick), 4:10.
Mia—Derby 19 pass from Tannehill (kick failed), 4:2.

Third Quarter
NYJ—Powell 28 pass from Darnold (kick failed), 11:51.

Fourth Quarter
NYJ—FG Myers 55, 10:05.
NYJ—FG Myers 41, 5:56.
A—77,582.

Mia
First downs 18
Total Net Yards 257
Passing 131-135
Rushing 122-100
Punt Returns 3-48
Kickoff Returns 2-31
Interceptions Ret. 2-31
Comp-Att-Int 17-23-0
Sacked-Yards Lost 4-42
Fumbles-Lost 2-10
Time of Possession 28:25-31:35

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Miami, Drake 11-53, Tannehill 8-44, Gore 9-25, Wilson 1-5.
New York, Crowell 12-35, Powell 5-26, Darnold 2-1.

PASSING—Miami, Tannehill 17-23-0, 168.
New York, Darnold 25-41-2, 334.
RECEIVING—Miami, Amendola 4-32, Drake 4-17, Wilson 3-17, Grant 2-27, 2-17, Derby 1-19, Gore 1-19.
New York, Enunwa 7-92, Powell 5-74, Pryor 4-84, Anderson 3-27, Herndon 2-30, Crowell 2-4, Tomlinson 1-24, Kearse 1-minus 1.

DEFENSE—Miami, Tannehill 17-23-0, 168.
New York, Darnold 25-41-2, 334.
RECEIVING—Miami, Amendola 4-32, Drake 4-17, Wilson 3-17, Grant 2-27, 2-17, Derby 1-19, Gore 1-19.
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CURTIS COMPTON, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP

Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan celebrates after scoring the game-winning touchdown against the Panthers on a quarterback keeper during the fourth quarter on Sunday in Atlanta.

Late INT helps 49ers hang on to beat Lions

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Another miscommunication almost led to another game-altering interception for Jimmy Garoppolo.

Only this time, the San Francisco 49ers got bailed out by a flag.

Garoppolo threw two touchdown passes and caught a break when a defensive holding call negated a late interception as the 49ers held on to beat the Lions.

Detroit cut San Francisco's 30-13 lead to three points thanks to two fourth-quarter touchdown passes by Matthew Stafford.

Tracy Walker intercepted a Garoppolo pass late in the fourth quarter and returned it to the San Francisco 7, but Quandre Diggs was called for holding George Kittle on the other side of the field, giving the 49ers a reprieve.

49ers 30, Lions 27

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	7	13	0	14-27		
Detroit	7	10	14	3-30		

First Quarter
SF—FG Gould 46, 6:18.
DET—Gould 30 pass from Stafford (Prater kick), 2:45.

Second Quarter
SF—Bourne 4 pass from Garoppolo (Gould kick), 12:07.
SF—FG Gould 42, 4:55.
DET—FG Prater 27, 3:32.

Third Quarter
SF—Celek 11 pass from Garoppolo (Gould kick), 13:17.
DET—FG Prater 43, 8:46.

Fourth Quarter
SF—Bredia 56 run (Gould kick), 5:2.
DET—M-Jones 5 pass from Stafford (Prater kick), 8:36.
DET—Roberts 15 pass from Stafford (Prater kick), 3:27.
A—70,164.

First downs 27
Total Net Yards 482
Rushes-yards 28-190
Passing 299 156
Punt Returns 4-11
Kickoff Returns 5-144
Interceptions Ret. 0-0
Comp-Att-Int 34-50-0
Sacked-Yards Lost 2-18
Fumbles-Lost 1-1
Penalties-Yards 10-105
Time of Possession 30:18-29:42

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Detroit, Stafford 18-84, Blount 8-38, Tate 1-9, Stafford 1-8.
San Francisco, Drake 11-138, Morris 14-48, Garoppolo 10-34, Garoppolo 18-20-0-0.

PASSING—Detroit, Stafford 34-53-0, 347.
San Francisco, Garoppolo 28-42-0-0.

RECEIVING—Detroit, Riddick 9-47, T.Y. Hilton 4-49, Givens 5-23, M-Jones 4-54, Roberts 1-15, Wilson 1-13, Morris 1-minus 3.
San Francisco, Barclon 4-57, Bredia 3-21, Juszczyk 3-13, Morris 2-32, Kittle 2-22, Kittle 2-22, Pettis 1-35, Bourne 1-4.

Ryan shines with arm and legs for Falcons

ATLANTA — Matt Ryan had more rushing touchdowns than Cam Newton. Even more important, the quarterback got a lot of Falcons involved in the offense.

Just like that, the Falcons resembled the high-scoring team that made it all the way to the Super Bowl two seasons ago.

Ryan ran for a pair of scores for the first time in his career and threw a pair of TD passes.

Cam Newton was rocked early on by a cheap shot from Dontae Kazez, who was thrown out of the game for the helmet-to-helmet hit.

Newton had one last chance to send the game to overtime. He lofted a pass into the end zone for D.J. Moore, who was double-covered and let the ball slip through his hands as time expired.

Falcons 31, Panthers 24

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	3	7	0	14-24		
Carolina	3	7	0	14-24		

First Quarter
Car—FG Gano 54, 11:36.
Atl—FG Bryant 44, 5:24.

Second Quarter
Car—Wright 5 pass from Newton (Gano kick), 8:42.
Atl—Ridley 11 pass from Ryan (Bryant kick), 4:03.

Third Quarter
Atl—Hooper 8 pass from Ryan (Bryant kick), 2:22.

Fourth Quarter
Atl—Ridley 1 run (Bryant kick), 9:23.
Atl—Ryan 8 run (Bryant kick), 7:17.
Car—FG Gano 51 pass from Newton (Gano kick), 2:20.
A—72,528.

First downs 27
Total Net Yards 439
Rushes-yards 18-121
Passing 318 272
Punt Returns 2-9
Kickoff Returns 1-26
Interceptions Ret. 1-0
Comp-Att-Int 32-45-0
Sacked-Yards Lost 2-17
Fumbles-Lost 1-0
Penalties-Yards 4-47
Time of Possession 30:18-29:42

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Carolina, Newton 5-42, McCaffrey 8-37, Anderson 3-31, Moore 1-7, Armah 1-4, Atlanta, Coleman 16-107, Smith 9-46, Ryan 4-18, Ridley 1-3, Schaub 1-0, Sanu 1-minus 4.

PASSING—Carolina, Newton 32-45-1, 335.
Atlanta, Ryan 23-38-1, 272.
DET—Funchess 7-77, Wright 5-62, Smith 3-3, Thomas 2-10, Moore 1-51.
Atlanta, Jones 4-54, Hooper 5-29, Ridley 4-64, Coleman 4-18, Sanu 2-21, Hall 1-30, Paulsen 1-10, Smith 1-1.

Saints narrowly prolong Browns' winless streak

NEW ORLEANS — Drew Brees and the New Orleans Saints needed less than 10 minutes to obliterate what looked like a milestone victory for the seemingly cursed Cleveland Browns.

Wil Lutz kicked a 44-yard field goal with 21 seconds left, Cleveland kicker Zane Gonzalez pushed the second of his two missed field goals wide right in the final seconds, and the Saints held on for a 21-18 victory that extended the Browns' winless streak to 19.

"These are games that we find we find our identity a little bit," Brees said, alluding to New Orleans' inability to score more than three points until the first of Michael Thomas' two touchdown catches with 8:41 to go. "These are games that, hey, you didn't have your best stuff, but you found a way."

NFL

Rams defense living up to early expectations

LOS ANGELES — The Rams put on a dominating display against Arizona as they gave up only five first downs and didn't allow the Cardinals to cross mid-field until the final minute.

"If we can play elite defense like that and put up zeroes across the board and let our offense just run up and down the field, so be it," defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh said.

Rams 34, Cardinals 0

Arizona 0 0 0 0-0
L.A. Rams 19 8 7-34

Second Quarter
La—Gurley 11 run (Gurley run), 14:29.
La—FG Hekker 20, 8:07.

Third Quarter
La—Gurley 1 run (Gurley run), 9:00.
La—Gurley 2 run (Brown pass from Goff), 3:38.

Fourth Quarter
La—Higbee 3 pass from Goff (Hekker kick), 3:17.
A—66-515.

First downs 5 24
Total Net Yards 137 432
Rushes-yards 15-64 33-90
Passing 13 342
Punt Returns 0-0 6-133
Kickoff Returns 3-49 1-22
Interceptions Ret. 1-0 2-22
Comp-Att-Int 17-27-1 24-32-1
Sacked-Yards Lost 1-7 1-12
Punts 8-50-4 2-51-0
Fumbles-Lost 0-0 0-0
Penalties-Yards 9-47 5-49
Time of Possession 34:08 34:08

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Arizona, D.Johnson 13-48, Edmonds 1-5, Coleman 1-1, Los Angeles, Brown 12-46, Gurley 19-42, Goff 2-2.
PASSING—Arizona, Bradford 17-27-1-90, Los Angeles, Goff 24-32-1-354.
RECEIVING—Arizona, Edmonds 5-15, Kirk 4-27, Seals-Jones 4-17, Fitzgerald 3-28, D.Johnson 3-13, Los Angeles, Coaks 7-129, Woods 6-81, Kupp 6-63, Gurley 3-31, Everett 1-17, Higbee 1-3.

Colts' Luck sharp when it matters

LANDOVER, Md. — Andrew Luck could recall a critical error the Indianapolis Colts made on almost every possession, some he made.

When it mattered most, he was almost perfect. Luck shook off two interceptions and capped a methodical drive with a second touchdown of the game to help the Colts pick up their first victory of the season.

"When we needed to, we put a drive together and got points," Luck said. "On the longer drive where we ended up with a touchdown, everybody, we all just did our jobs and we did them well."

Colts 21, Redskins 9

Indianapolis 7 7 0 7-21
Washington 3 3 3 9-9

First Quarter
Ind—Ebron 7 pass from Luck (Vinatieri kick), 9:27.

Second Quarter
Was—FG Hopkins 48, 11:12.
Ind—Hines 8 run (Vinatieri kick), 6:51.

Third Quarter
Was—FG Hopkins 27, 5:40.
Ind—FG Hopkins 49, 13:28.

Fourth Quarter
Ind—Hilton 3 pass from Luck (Vinatieri kick), 7:32.
A—57-013.

First downs 17 20
Total Net Yards 283 234
Rushes-yards 28-104 22-65
Passing 177 229
Punt Returns 1-6 0-0
Kickoff Returns 1-19 1-16
Interceptions Ret. 0-0 1-1
Comp-Att-Int 21-37-2 33-46-0
Sacked-Yards Lost 3-23 0-0
Punts 5-41-0 5-36-4
Fumbles-Lost 0-0 2-1
Penalties-Yards 6-35 7-90
Time of Possession 26:40 33:20

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Indianapolis, Wilkins 10-61, Mink 3-34, Hines 47, 22, Washington, Fowler 2-9, Peterson 1-20, A.Smith 4-14, Kelley 1-1, Thompson 4-11.
PASSING—Indianapolis, Luck 21-32-2-179, Washington, A.Smith 33-46-0-292.
RECEIVING—Indianapolis, Luck 11-132-2, Ebron 3-26, Rogers 3-17, Grant 2-30, Doiyne 1-15, Washington, Thompson 13-92, Reed 6-55, Richardson 4-63, Dotson 4-37.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—Washington, Hopkins 49.



MICHAEL AINSWORTH/AP

Giants quarterback Eli Manning falls after taking a hit from Cowboys linebacker Jaylon Smith during the second half on Sunday.

Vrabel gets first win as Titans edge Texans

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — No Marcus Mariota. Both starting offensive tackles out, along with the top backup against Houston and three-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year J.J. Watt.

Mike Vrabel gave the NFL a glimpse at just how much of a difference he and his assistants can make for the Titans as he picked up his first win as a head coach.

Vrabel and his coaching staff dug into the playbook for a 66-yard touchdown pass off a fake punt, some wildcat on offense and a defense that kept Deshaun Watson in check with the game on the line.

Titans 20, Texans 17

Houston 0 7 3 7-17
Tennessee 6 14 0 6-20

First Quarter
Ten—Cruikshank 66 pass from Watson (Sturgis kick), 10:43.

Second Quarter
Ten—Taylor 18 pass from Gabbert (Sturgis kick), 3:51.

Third Quarter
Hou—Hoppkins 28 pass from Watson (Fairbairn kick), 5:28.

Fourth Quarter
Hou—Fuller 39 pass from Watson (Fairbairn kick), 13:25.
Ten—FG Succop 42, 9:43.
Ten—FG Succop 31, 1:00.
A—62-372.

First downs 21 15
Total Net Yards 248 200
Rushes-yards 26-148 35-100
Passing 289 183
Punt Returns 4-25 1-2
Kickoff Returns 0-0 0-0
Interceptions Ret. 0-0 1-0
Comp-Att-Int 22-32-1 15-22-0
Sacked-Yards Lost 4-21 0-0
Punts 4-41-0 5-52-2
Fumbles-Lost 2-0 1-0
Penalties-Yards 11-87 11-87
Time of Possession 29:38 30:22

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Houston, Miller 14-68, Watson 5-44, Blue 7-36, Tennessee, Henry 18-56, Lewis 14-42, Gabbert 2-2.
PASSING—Houston, Watson 22-32-1-310, Tennessee, Gabbert 13-20-0-117, Byard 1-0-66, Henry 1-0-8.
RECEIVING—Houston, Fuller 8-113, Hopkins 6-110, Ellington 3-25, Akins 2-21, Mink 1-15, Tennessee, Davis 5-55, Taylor 3-32, Stocker 2-15, Matthews 2-8, Cruikshank 1-66, Sharpe 1-14, Lewis 1-1.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—Houston, Fairbairn 54.

Gordon scores 3 TDs in Chargers' win over Bills

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Melvin Gordon matched a career high by scoring three touchdowns, and Los Angeles defeated Buffalo in manhandling the anemic Bills during rookie quarterback Josh Allen's debut as a starter.

Though he threw two interceptions and was sacked five times, Allen also showed off his strong arm by completing a 57-yard pass to Zay Jones in the closing minutes of the second quarter.

Chargers 31, Bills 20s

L.A. Chargers 14 14 0 3-31
Buffalo 10 6 7 7-20

First Quarter
LAC—M.Williams 10 pass from Rivers (Sturgis kick), 9:26.
LAC—Gordon 20 run (Sturgis kick), 4:18.

Second Quarter
Buf—FG Haskins 43, 13:38.
LAC—Gordon 3 pass from Rivers (Sturgis kick), 10:43.

Third Quarter
Buf—Gordon 2 pass from Rivers (Sturgis kick), 1:55.

Fourth Quarter
Buf—FG Haskins 40, 47.
Buf—B Ivory 1 run (Haskins kick), 11:06.

Fourth Quarter
LAC—FG Sturges 24, 3:50.
Buf—K Benjamin 3 pass from J.Allen (Haskins kick), 3:38.
A—69-187.

First downs 21 17
Total Net Yards 349 293
Rushes-yards 26-109 22-84
Passing 240 209
Punt Returns 3-17 1-6
Kickoff Returns 2-25 2-48
Interceptions Ret. 2-9 0-0
Comp-Att-Int 23-27-0 18-32-0
Sacked-Yards Lost 2-16 5-36
Punts 5-45-0 5-44-6
Fumbles-Lost 2-0 2-0
Penalties-Yards 6-45 6-31
Time of Possession 33:02 26:58

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Los Angeles, Ekeler 11-77, Gordon 9-28, Rivers 3-5, Newsome 1-0, J.Jones 1-0, Smith 1-minus 1. Buffalo, McCoy 9-39, J.Allen 8-32, Ivory 2-1, M.Murphy 3-6.
PASSING—Los Angeles, Rivers 23-27-0-255, Buffalo, Allen 19-33-2-245.
RECEIVING—Los Angeles, Kallen 6-67, Gordon 6-36, Green 2-55, Williams 3-48, Ekeler 3-21, M.Williams 2-27, Buffalo, McCoy 4-29, J.Jones 2-63, Clay 1-29, Benjamin 2-19, Croom 2-7, Ivory 1-30, DiMarco 2-24, Holmes 1-29, Foster 1-23, M.Murphy 1-7, L.Thomas 1-7.

Prescott, defense lead Cowboys past Giants

ARLINGTON, Texas — Dak Prescott accepted the challenge. The Dallas quarterback threw a 64-yard touchdown pass to Tavon Austin on the third play of the game, and the Cowboys sacked Giants Eli Manning six times.

The Dallas defense was strong again, just as in an opening loss at Carolina, as the Cowboys avoided their first 0-2 start in seven seasons under coach Jason Garrett.

After saying "challenge accepted" during the week to Giants safety Landon Collins' suggestion that New York had a better chance by forcing Prescott to throw, the 2016 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year hit Austin in stride behind cornerback Janoris Jenkins.

Cowboys 20, Giants 13

New York 0 0 3 10-13
Dallas 10 0 3 7-20

First Quarter
Dal—Austin 64 pass from Prescott (Maher kick), 13:26.

Second Quarter
Dal—FG Maher 29, 6:01.
NYG—FG Rosas 28, 4:31.

Third Quarter
Dal—Elliott 18 run (Maher kick), 5:45.
NYG—Engram 18 pass from Manning (Rosas kick), 1:27.

Fourth Quarter
NYG—FG Rosas 38, 11.
A—95-512.

First downs 17 16
Total Net Yards 235 288
Rushes-yards 17-35 25-138
Passing 220 166
Punt Returns 3-14 1-0
Kickoff Returns 2-56 0-0
Interceptions Ret. 1-15 0-0
Comp-Att-Int 33-44-0 16-25-0
Sacked-Yards Lost 5-19 0-0
Punts 6-43-0 4-43-0
Fumbles-Lost 1-1 0-0
Penalties-Yards 4-32 6-47
Time of Possession 32:12 27:48

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—New York, Barkley 11-28, Manning 3-4, Gallman 1-2, Stewart 2-1. Dallas, Elliott 17-78, Prescott 7-45, Austin 1-15.
PASSING—New York, Manning 33-44-0-279, Dallas, Prescott 16-25-0-160.
RECEIVING—New York, Barkley 14-80, Engram 7-67, Beckham 4-51, S.Shedard 3-24, Latimer 2-41, Ellison 2-5, Gallman 1-11, Dallas, Elliott 5-9, Thompson 4-33, Austin 2-79, Beasley 2-13, T.Williams 1-12, Hurns 1-9, Gallup 1-5.

Broncos winning again; Raiders are still losing

DENVER — Ugly wins are a thing of beauty in Denver, where the Broncos learned all their hard lessons last year in the dreariness of defeat.

"We're sitting here 2-0 but we're struggling," Emmanuel Sanders said after the Broncos eked out a win over Oakland on Brandon McManus' 36-yard field goal with 6 seconds left. It was their only lead on a sweltering afternoon in which the temperature at kickoff was a record 92 degrees.

"It does feel good to win the hard-fought games," Sanders said.

Broncos 20, Raiders 19

Oakland 3 9 7 0-19
Denver 2 0 0 10-20

First Quarter
Oak—FG Nugent 26, 9:33.
Oak—Lynch 1 run (Booker blocked), 3:50.

Second Quarter
Oak—Freeman 1 run (McManus kick), 9:06.

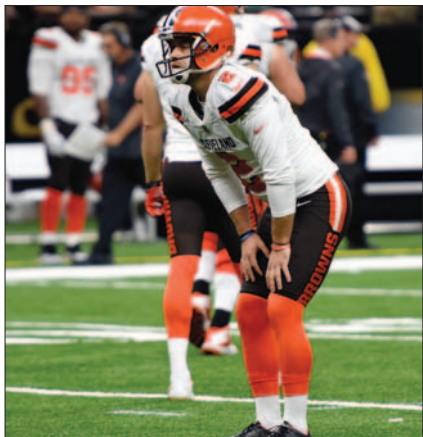
Third Quarter
Oak—Roberts 20 pass from Carr (Nugent kick), 5:25.
Oak—FG McManus 39, 2:43.

Fourth Quarter
Oak—Keenum 1 run (McManus kick), 5:58.
Oak—FG McManus 36, 0:06.

First downs 21 20
Total Net Yards 373 288
Rushes-yards 27-92 27-158
Passing 281 217
Punt Returns 1-17 0-0
Kickoff Returns 0-0 0-0
Interceptions Ret. 1-15 0-0
Comp-Att-Int 29-32-0 19-35-1
Sacked-Yards Lost 7-15 0-0
Punts 4-47-3 4-51-0
Fumbles-Lost 0-0 0-0
Penalties-Yards 4-30 6-35
Time of Possession 32:56 27:04

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—Oakland, Lynch 18-65, Martin 7-24, Richard 2-3, Denver, Lindsay 14-107, Freeman 8-28, Booker 3-17, Keenum 3-16.
PASSING—Oakland, Carr 29-32-0-288, Denver, Keenum 19-35-2-22.
RECEIVING—Oakland, Cooper 10-216, Bryant 3-20, Roberts 3-43, Nelson 2-30, K.Smith 2-12, Lynch 2-3, Carrier 1-5, Martin 1-0, Denver, De Thomas 5-18, Sanders 4-86, Butt 4-48, Heuerman 2-20, Patrick 1-26, Janovich 1-11, Sutton 1-9, Lindsay 1-4.

NFL



BILL FERGUSON/AP

Browns kicker Zane Gonzalez reacts after missing an extra point during the second half Sunday against the New Orleans Saints, in New Orleans. Gonzalez missed two field goals and two PATs.

Off: Browns hold tryouts after Gonzalez's dismal day

FROM BACK PAGE

but something obviously was off and I've got to fix that and help this team."

Zane Gonzalez, who held FBS records for career field goals made (96) and points by a kicker (494) when he left Arizona State after the 2016 season, hurt his team even more. His Browns lost — yeah, that's hardly news as it was the 18th time in their last 19 games they flopped, and the other game was last week's tie with Pittsburgh — and he missed two field goals and two extra points.

He botched his first extra point after the Browns went up 12-3 in the third quarter at New Orleans. He was wide left on a 44-yard field goal that would have given them a 15-3 edge in the fourth quarter. That plagued him on his final two attempts.

Gonzalez hooked an extra point wide left with 1:16 remaining, leaving the score 18-18. He pushed a 52-yard field goal try right with 3 seconds to go on Wil Lutz's 44-yard field goal 18 seconds earlier.

"It was on me a hundred percent," Gonzalez said. "I can't blame it on anybody else. We were so close to that win and it was more so long, and I just let everything down."

"I was cursing myself out in my head. I'm really upset about it."

Gonzalez missed one extra point last season as a rookie in Cleveland.

On Monday, the Browns held tryouts for free agent kickers at their headquarters and it's likely Gonzalez will be released.

Among the kickers getting a look is Cairo Santos, who played for Browns general manager John Dorsey in Kansas City.

Miami's Jason Sanders and New York's Jason Myers were both wide on PATs in the Dolphins' 20-12 victory over the Jets. Pittsburgh's Chris Boswell missed an extra point against Kansas City in a loss, and Tampa Bay's Chandler Catanzaro did so, as well, against Philadelphia in a victory.

The NFL's decision to move the extra-point kick back to the 15-yard line has turned it from a gimme into, well, a lengthier putt. Hardly, though, a twisting breaker like at Augusta National.

With kickers' bombing field goals from well beyond 50 yards with regularity — Myers, who has a spotty record on PATs, tied a Jets home mark with a 55-yard three-pointer — and coaches willing to let them try, what's up with the 33-yard extra point?

It brings up an interesting possibility. Consider what the Rams did without Zuerlein; of course, they have one of the NFL's best weapons near the goal line in Todd Gurley. The running back and 2017 Offensive Player of the Year scored twice on the 2-point conversions from the 2-yard line. And the Steelers rarely back off from trying for the deuce. Who would mind having Tom Brady, Aaron Rodgers or Drew Brees overseeing one play from the 2 for a couple of points?

Or Cam Newton or Russell Wilson getting creative in that goal-line situation?

Pretty exciting options.

So maybe teams unsure of their kickers' reliability — ignore this, Ravens and Rams and Colts fans — will think more about the 2-point conversions. That would be a major culture change, as would not thinking so much about setting up field goals. Seems coaches get burned a lot by that philosophy.

By GENARO C. ARMAS
Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — A tie felt odd to Kirk Cousins.

On one hand, the Minnesota Vikings quarterback threw three touchdown passes in the fourth quarter to help rally his team from a 20-7 deficit against the Green Bay Packers.

But three missed field goals, including two in overtime, by rookie Daniel Carlson hurt. So did a pass from Cousins that bounced off Laquan Treadwell's hands late in the fourth quarter that was intercepted by Ha Ha Clinton-Dix.

It added up to a 29-29 tie on Sunday.

"I don't know what to feel after a tie. I don't know how to answer that," said Cousins, who finished 35-for-48 for 425 yards. "It's a unique place to be and proud of the way that the whole team ... the way everybody stayed in it and fought."

If only the Vikings could convert one of those field goals into points. Carlson's 35-yarder as time expired in overtime went right off the uprights, just like his kick from 49 earlier in overtime. Carlson also missed from 48 in the second quarter.

"It's disappointing when you've got an opportunity to win the football game there at the end and you come up with a tie. It's better than a loss," Vikings coach Mike Zimmer said.

The result at Lambeau Field overshadowed memorable performances by both quarterbacks.

Green Bay star Aaron Rodgers played with a brace on his injured left knee and threw for 281 yards and a 9-yard touchdown pass to Davante Adams.

But a mishandled handoff with 5:17 left in overtime cost the Packers a chance at another long field-goal attempt. Rodgers

Vikings, Pack end in tie



MIKE ROEMER/AP

The Packers' Clay Matthews reacts after being called for a roughing the passer penalty during the fourth quarter on Sunday against the Vikings, in Green Bay, Wis.

recovered the fumble on second-and-1 at the 37, and he was sacked on third down to push Green Bay back to the 47.

He wasn't happy about the tie either.

"Close to an 'L.' Doesn't feel great," Rodgers said. Packers' kicker Mason Crosby matched a career high with five field goals, but his potential game-winner from 52 went wide left as time expired in regulation.

"It's gross. I don't like it. Obviously, you hate losing. A tie is just weird," Crosby said.

Everything seemed to go the Vikings' way in the fourth, when they rallied from a 20-7 deficit. Until that point, the Packers had put together the kind of complete performance needed to stop Rodgers. After getting a step on his defense, Adam Thielen handed in a 22-yard TD pass from Cousins with 31 seconds left just before a safety came over to help. A 2-point conversion tied the game at 29.

The drive included a rough-

ing-the-passer penalty on Clay Matthews that negated an interception by Jaire Alexander with 1:45 left that would have allowed the Packers to run out the clock.

"I don't know where to start, to be honest with you. I have so many emotions running through as far as what a terrible call it was," Matthews said. "At the same time, I don't know what else to do."

Referee Tony Corrente said the call was not related to the new helmet-to-helmet rule.

"He picked up the quarterback and drove him into the ground," Corrente told a pool reporter.

Vikings 29, Packers 29

Minnesota	7	0	0	22	0-29
Green Bay	10	3	9	0-29	

First Quarter
GB—Jackson 0 blocked punt return (Crosby kick), 7:28.

Min—Treadwell 14 pass from Cousins (Carlson kick), 9:09.

Second Quarter
GB—Carlson 39 yard from Rodgers (Crosby kick), 12:28.

GB—FG Crosby 40, 6:30.

Third Quarter
Min—Diggs 3 pass from Cousins (Carlson kick), 1:17.

GB—FG Crosby 31, 7:35.

Min—Diggs 15 pass from Cousins (Carlson kick), 7:18.

GB—FG Crosby 48, 2:13.

GB—FG Crosby 36, 1:45.

Min—Thielen 22 pass from Cousins (Diggs pass from Cousins), 1:13.

A—78.61.

Min
First downs 24
Net Yards 480
Rushes-Yards 18-68
Passing-Yards 412
Turnovers 1

Pack
First Downs 25
Net Yards 248
Rushes-Yards 24-98
Passing-Yards 412
Turnovers 1

Receiving—Minnesota, Thielen 12, 131. Diggs 9-128, Rudolph 7-72. Cook 3-52, Treadwell 2-23. Morgan 2-19. Green Bay: A. Adams 8-64, Graham 6-95, Aikens 6-64, Cobb 4-30. Williams 1-12. Montgomery 1-9. Kendrick 1-4. Valdes-Scantling 1-3.

Missed Field Goals—Minnesota, Carlson 48, Carlson 49, Carlson 53. Green Bay, Crosby 52.

Time of Possession 31:20 38:08

RUSHING—Minnesota, Cook 10-38, Thielen 12-131. Green Bay, Williams 16-95, Montgomery 1-9.

PASSING—Minnesota, Cousins 35-48-1-425. Green Bay, Rodgers 30-42-0-281.

RECEIVING—Minnesota, Thielen 12-131. Diggs 9-128, Rudolph 7-72. Cook 3-52, Treadwell 2-23. Morgan 2-19. Green Bay: A. Adams 8-64, Graham 6-95, Aikens 6-64, Cobb 4-30. Williams 1-12. Montgomery 1-9. Kendrick 1-4. Valdes-Scantling 1-3.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—Minnesota, Carlson 48, Carlson 49, Carlson 53. Green Bay, Crosby 52.

Bucs shock Eagles

By FRED GODDALL
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Courtesy of DeSean Jackson, Ryan Fitzpatrick rocked a pair of singarmaps and a partially zipped warmup jacket revealing a couple of gold chains and a large pendant resting on his chest.

"It's nothing," the Tampa Bay quarterback said of the garb after throwing four touchdown passes and topping 400 yards for the second straight week, leading the Buccaneers to a 27-21 victory over the reigning Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday.

"I think we just have to stay humble," Fitzpatrick added, a smile crossing his face. "We've got to make sure we know how to handle success and all those things. We can't change who we are."

Filling in for suspended quarterback Jameis Winston, Fitzpatrick completed 27 of 33 passes for 402 yards and has the suddenly explosive Bucs off to a 2-0 start for the first time since 2010.

Jackson scored on a 75-yard reception on the first play of the game, giving him three TDs in two games after having three last season.

O.J. Howard also had a 75-yard TD catch in the first half for Tampa Bay, which stunned New Orleans 48-40 on the road in its season opener.

"I think we just developed a lot of confidence in the offseason and through training camp with how we worked, and the way things are going. But we want to thank the guys," the 35-year-old Fitzpatrick said. "I think that confidence has carried over into the season."

Nick Foles threw for 334 yards for the Eagles (1-1), who rallied from a 20-point, third-quarter deficit.

The Super Bowl MVP's 2-yard TD pass to Nelson Agholor on fourth down trimmed Tampa Bay's lead to 27-21 with 2:46 remaining. Fitzpatrick didn't give the Eagles' injury-prone offense a chance to finish the comeback.

Buccaneers 27, Eagles 21

Philadelphia	0	7	7	7-21
Tampa Bay	0	13	7	0-27

First Quarter
TB—Jackson 75 pass from Fitzpatrick (Catanzaro kick), 14:48.

Second Quarter
PHI—Clement 15 run (Jak.Elliott kick), 4:51.

TB—Howard 75 pass from Fitzpatrick (0-6 field goal), 4:38.

TB—Gedlin 9 pass from Fitzpatrick (Catanzaro kick), 4:27.

Third Quarter
TB—M.Evans 4 pass from Fitzpatrick (Catanzaro kick), 10:00.

PHI—Aijayi 1 run (Jak.Elliott kick), 09.

PHI—Agholor 2 pass from Foles (Jak.Elliott kick), 2:46.

A—56.52.

PHI
First downs 18
Net Yards 246
Rushes-Yards 24-99
Passing-Yards 321
Turnovers 3

Pack
First Downs 23
Net Yards 248
Rushes-Yards 24-98
Passing-Yards 412
Turnovers 1

Receiving—Philadelphia, Foles 35-48-0-425. Green Bay, Rodgers 30-42-0-281.

MISSING FIELD GOALS—Philadelphia, Jak.Elliott 42.

Time of Possession 31:20 38:08

RUSHING—Philadelphia, Foles 35-48-0-425. Green Bay, Rodgers 30-42-0-281.

PASSING—Philadelphia, Foles 35-48-0-425. Green Bay, Rodgers 30-42-0-281.

RECEIVING—Philadelphia, Foles 35-48-0-425. Green Bay, Rodgers 30-42-0-281.

NFL

Bortles leads Jags to first win over Brady

BY MARK LONG
Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Eight months later and with much less on the line, the Jacksonville Jaguars found a way to close out Tom Brady and the New England Patriots.

The significance of it might not be known for some time.

Not even the bold, brash Jaguars would acknowledge it was anything more than a Week 2 win. Others would disagree.

Blake Bortles threw four touchdown passes, three in the first half, and the Jaguars beat Brady and the Patriots 31-20 Sunday in a rematch of last season's AFC championship game.

The victory — Jacksonville's first in nine tries against Brady — could signal a new favorite in the AFC.

"Every week is about us," Jaguars All-Pro cornerback Jalen Ramsey said. "We feel like if we're at the top of our game, we can't be beat. They were our opponents, so that's what we prepared for."

Bortles threw for 377 yards in the best game of his five-year career.

He threw perfect TD passes to Donté Moncrief, Keelan Cole and Austin Seferian-Jenkins in the first half, the second time Bortles has accomplished that feat. Bortles sealed the victory with a 61-yard pass to Dede Westbrook in the fourth quarter.

Westbrook took a short pass on a crossing route, made one defender miss and outran another down the sideline and into the end zone. Cole delivered the key block.

Cole finished with seven receptions for 116 yards and a score. He made a spectacular, one-handed catch on Jacksonville's second drive and beat Eric Rowe for a 24-yard touchdown through three plays later. Rowe was benched.

Westbrook's catch-and-run put the Jaguars (2-0) ahead 31-13, allowing them to start celebrating their second victory in



PHILAN M. EBENHACK/AP

Jaguars quarterback Blake Bortles scrambles as he is pressured by New England Patriots defensive end Deatrich Wise, left, and defensive end Geno Grissom (96) during the first half Sunday in Jacksonville, Fla.

franchise history against New England (1-1) and first in the regular season. They hadn't beaten the Pats since January 1999. "You have a bad day against a good team, it's a recipe for losing," Brady said. "And we certainly had a bad day."

Brady completed 24 of 35 passes for 235 yards and two touchdowns, both to Chris Hogan. He was sacked twice.

Brady pleaded with teammates on the bench early. Offensive coordinator Josh

McDaniels appeared to deliver stern words, too.

Just when the Patriots started showing signs of life, they were down 11 and in field-goal range early in the fourth quarter — Dante Fowler stripped Brady. Fowler was making his season debut after being suspended for the season opener.

"We just obviously didn't do anything well enough or close to well enough to be able to take a win today," Pats coach Bill

Belichick said. "It's disappointing to have the kind of day that we had today, but that's what it was, so we'll live with it, own it and move on."

No Fournette: The Jaguars improved to 4-0 in two seasons without running back Leonard Fournette. Fournette sat out while recovering from a sore right hamstring he worked in the season opener at the New York Giants.

T.J. Yeldon started in his place and ran 10 times for 58 yards.

Jaguars 31, Patriots 20

New England Jacksonville 0 3 7 10-20
14 7 3 7-31

First Quarter

Jac — Moncrief 4 pass from Bortles (Lambo kick), 7:46.
Jac — Cole 24 pass from Bortles (Lambo kick), 2:10.

Second Quarter

NE — FG Gostkowski 29, 2:45.
Jac — Seferian-Jenkins 4 pass from Bortles (Lambo kick), :09.

Third Quarter

Jac — FG Lambo 28, 7:50.
NE — Hogan 7 pass from Brady (Gostkowski kick), 1:42.

Fourth Quarter

NE — FG Gostkowski 46, 14:10.
Jac — Westbrook 61 pass from Bortles (Lambo kick), 7:55.
NE — Hogan 29 pass from Brady (Gostkowski kick), 3:49.

A — 68.527.

	NE	Jac
First downs	18	27
Total Net Yards	302	481
Rushes-yards	24-82	24-104
Passing	220	377
Punt Returns	0-0	2-21
Kickoff Returns	2-47	3-36
Interceptions Ret.	2-47	3-36
Comp-Att-Int	24-35-0	29-45-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-14	0-0
Fumbles	4-25	1-1
Penalties-Yards	7-77	2-1
Time of Possession	29:14	30:46

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — New England, Michel 10-34, Burkhead 6-22, White 4-11, Brady 3-10, Patterson 1-5, Jacksonville 10-38, Bortles 6-35, Grant 4-13, Wilds 3-4, Westbrook 1 (-minus 6).
RECEIVING — New England, White 7-73, Dorsett 5-44, Hogan 3-42, Hollister 2-35, Patterson 3-18, Gronkowski 2-15, Michel 1-7, Jacksonville, Cole 7-116, Grant 6-56, Westbrook 4-88, Moncrief 4-34, Seferian-Jenkins 3-23, Yeldon 2-13, Paul 1-22, O'Shaughnessy 1-17, Chubb 1-17.

MISSSED FIELD GOALS — New England, Gostkowski 54.

Mahomes ties KC's franchise mark with six TDs

BY WILL GRAVES
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Patrick Mahomes is taking a democratic approach to his new job. Get open and the Kansas City Chiefs quarterback will get you on the ball.

The proof came on Sunday in Pittsburgh in a record-setting 42-37 victory over the Steelers. The first-year starter threw six touchdowns to five different players over four quarters of brilliance that did little to deter the rapidly accelerating hype train around Mahomes, who turns 23 on Monday.

"I think this is even better than we envisioned," said wide receiver Chris Conley, whose 15-yard touchdown reception less than two minutes in helped kickstart Kansas City's first win in Pittsburgh in 32 years. "Guys were getting involved all over the field. We were able to spread it out."

And Mahomes was able to spread it around on a day he had more touchdown passes (six) than incompletions (five) while finishing 23 of 28 for 326 yards. He tied Hall of Famer Len Dawson's 54-year-old franchise record for most scoring passes in a game and his 10 touchdowns over the first two



GENE F. PUSKAS/AP

Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes threw six touchdowns to five players Sunday in a 42-37 win over the Steelers.

weeks are the most through two games in NFL history.

Oh, and it was his third career start.

"I see Pat doing this all season long," said tight end Travis Kelce, who hauled in two touchdowns of his own.

Mahomes is quick to downplay his impact. The way he figures it, he's just trying to make sure coach Andy Reid's game-planning doesn't go to waste.

"There [are] always plays that

coach Reid just draws up every single week," Mahomes said. "I always say that they always work. He just gets on the board in his room and just starts drawing plays. The possibilities are endless."

So apparently, are the options. Seven Chiefs caught at least one pass. Two — running back Kareem Hunt and wide receiver Demarcus Robinson — turned their only targets of the day into scores.

And the Chiefs (2-0) may have stamped themselves as one of the early favorites in the AFC after opening the season with victories over the Chargers and Steelers (0-1-1) on the road.

"I feel like we all expected this," defensive tackle Chris Jones said. "Not so much in Pittsburgh."

The two-time defending AFC North champions are winless through two weeks. In the opener the blame fell on an offense that turned it over six times in an ugly tie with the Browns. Back home at Heinz Field, the defense looked lost or overmatched, and occasionally both.

"Every category for the defense, we were below average," Pittsburgh safety Sean Davis said. "You can't beat a good team like

that. We missed tackles. We gave up plays. Too many penalties. You can't beat a good team like that."

After a quiet season opener in his debut in Kansas City, wide receiver Sammy Watkins showcased why the Chiefs lavished him with a three-year, \$48 million contract in the offseason. Watkins caught six passes for 100 yards — just his third game of at least 100 yards since the start of the 2016 season — and added a 31-yard gain on a jet sweep that set up a score.

Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger skipped two days of practice in the run-up to the game to deal with an minor elbow injury. The 36-year-old responded by throwing for 452 yards and three touchdowns and diving for a 3-yard score with 1:59 left. Still it wasn't enough to prevent Pittsburgh from getting off to its worst start since 2013, which was also the last time the Steelers missed the playoffs.

Chiefs 42, Steelers 37

Kansas City Pittsburgh 0 21 7 42
9 21 7 37

First Quarter

KC — Conley 15 pass from Mahomes (Butker kick), 13:05.
KC — Hunt 19 pass from Mahomes (Butker kick), 9:08.
KC — Hunt 5 pass from Mahomes (Butker kick), 2:24.

Second Quarter

Pit — James 26 pass from Roethlisberger (Boswell kick), 14:20.
Pit — Smith-Schuster 2 pass from Roethlisberger (kick failed), 6:27.
Pit — Washington 14 pass from Roethlisberger (Conner pass from Roethlisberger), 1:18.

Third Quarter

KC — Kelce 25 pass from Mahomes (Butker kick), 14:20.
Pit — Conner 1 run (Boswell kick), 7:12.
Pit — Washington 15 pass from Mahomes (Butker kick), 3:15.

Fourth Quarter

KC — Hill 29 pass from Mahomes (Butker kick), 13:42.
Pit — Seferian-Jenkins 1 run (Boswell kick), 1:59.

A — 63.956.

	KC	Pit
First downs	23	33
Total Net Yards	449	475
Rushes-yards	25-127	22-142
Passing	322	433
Punt Returns	2-54	1-6
Kickoff Returns	0-0	4-47
Interceptions Ret.	23-0	39-0
Comp-Att-Int	23-40-0	29-40-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-4	1-10
Fumbles-Lost	2-50	5-46
Penalties-Yards	12-76	12-90
Time of Possession	31:10	28:50

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — Kansas City, Hunt 18-75, Watkins 6-100, Hill 5-90, Conley 2-17, Hunt 1-5, Robinson 1-3, Dam Williams 1-2, Pittsburgh, Smith-Schuster 13-21, Conner 8-17, Roethlisberger 3-9, Switzer 1-4, Ridley 1-2.

PASSING — Kansas City, Mahomes 23-39-0-452, Roethlisberger 29-40-0-452.

RECEIVING — Kansas City, Kelce 7-109, Watkins 6-100, Hill 5-90, Conley 2-17, Hunt 1-5, Robinson 1-3, Dam Williams 1-2, Pittsburgh, Smith-Schuster 13-21, Conner 8-17, Roethlisberger 3-9, Switzer 1-4, Ridley 1-2.

MISSSED FIELD GOALS — Pittsburgh, Boswell 49.

SPORTS



Back in it
Cardinals snap 4-game slide,
grab share of wild card » **Page 27**

NFL

Kicking
OFF

Seven missed PATs,
key field goals help
doom multiple teams

By **BARRY WILNER**
Associated Press

NEW YORK

Who needs a kicker? Apparently not the Los Angeles Rams.

As for the Browns and Vikings, who are going with untested youngsters, well, maybe a new guy to handle field goals and extra points will be employed soon.

Sure, it's kind of early to panic about placekicking. The Rams showed how to not rely on placements once Greg Zuerlein went out Sunday with a groin problem. They simply scored touchdowns and then went for 2-point conversions, making three.

Still, when it's early in the schedule and kickers are struggling — there were seven missed PAT kicks Sunday afternoon — despite generally decent conditions, that's troubling.

Minnesota rookie Daniel Carlson twice went wide right on overtime field goals and the Vikings tied top NFC North rival Green Bay 29-29. Even though Packers kicker Mason Crosby matched a career high with five field goals, his potential winner from 52 yards went wide left as time expired in regulation.

It's rarely wise to play for field goals, particularly when you have the two highest-paid quarterbacks in the league, Aaron Rodgers and Kirk Cousins. But circumstances sometimes dictate not gambling. In Green Bay's case, that pretty much paid off thanks to the veteran Crosby.

Not so much for Minnesota as Carlson missed from 49 and 35 yards in OT. He also failed from 48 in the second quarter.

"I think I went out each time and it was a new kick," said Carlson, who was pretty sure he'd never missed three field goals in a game. "Went out there confident,

SEE OFF ON PAGE 30

Inside:

■ Jaguars top Patriots in AFC Championship rematch, Page 31

■ QB Fitzpatrick shines as Bucs stun defending champion Eagles, Page 30



MIKE ROEMER/AP

Vikings kicker Daniel Carlson reacts after missing a field goal attempt in the final seconds of overtime Sunday against the Green Bay Packers in Green Bay, Wis. The game ended in a 29-29 tie after Carlson missed wide right twice in overtime. He also missed from 48 yards in the second quarter.

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